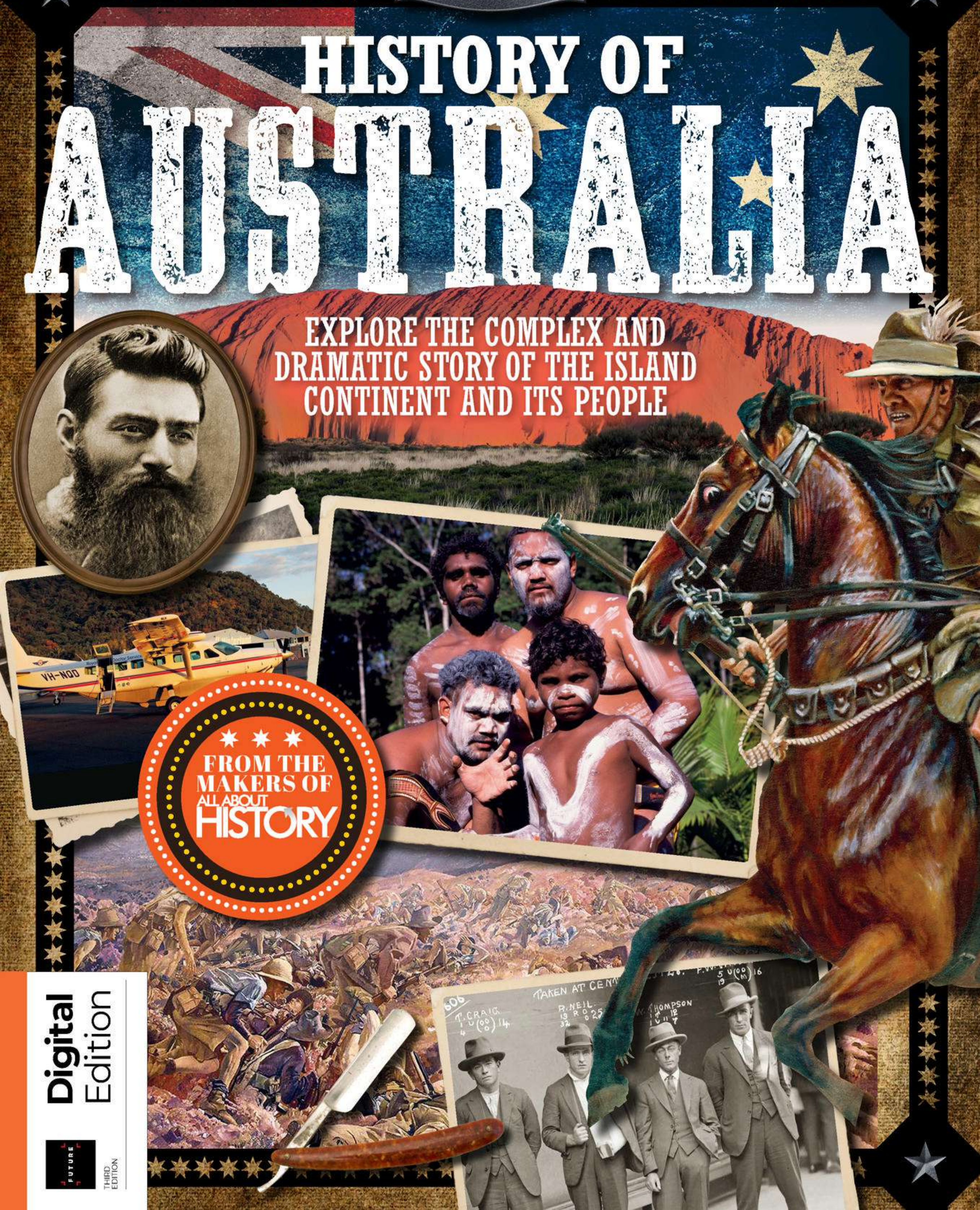
NEW

HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA

EXPLORE THE COMPLEX AND DRAMATIC STORY OF THE ISLAND CONTINENT AND ITS PEOPLE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FROM THE MAKERS OF ALL ABOUT HISTORY

Digital Edition

FUTURE
THIRD EDITION

HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA

It's tough to condense the history of any nation into a book of any size. That's particularly true of Australia, with its vast landscape, rich Aboriginal cultures, dramatic entrance into the European imagination, rip-roaring tales of a pioneer past, and relentless push for progress. In just a few centuries, Australia has gone from a largely self-contained hinterland to playing a key role on the world stage, in both wartime and peace. That journey hasn't been free from setbacks, missteps and the occasional trek down the wrong path, but it has also been one of grit, determination and success, characterised by the boldness, strength and adaptability of the Aussie national spirit. From challenging the British Empire for control over its own destiny (while maintaining friendly relations) to defending itself and its allies from invasion, from trying to address past colonial mistakes to celebrating the cultural diversity that makes it unique, the history of Australia is, overall, a resounding success story that would make any nation proud.

FUTURE

HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA

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CONTENTS

08 Australia across history
How a rich Indigenous past and centuries of colonial rule shaped one of the world's most diverse countries

10 Aboriginal history of Australia
Long before European colonisation, Australia was home to Aboriginal peoples, who have a long legacy as well as rich and powerful oral traditions that tell the story of the land

18 The Great Land to the South: How the world discovered Australia
The promise of a great southern land captivated sailors, pirates, merchants, kings and even popes. We discover how strong winds, astral bodies, religious fervour and economics led to Australia

24 Australia's first penal colony
How punitive criminal sentences, a gruelling journey and years of back-breaking labour forged the modern-day land down under

32 Colonial conflicts of Australia
When European settlers claimed land already occupied by the Indigenous populations of Australia, conflict was inevitable and centuries of tension began

38 The Australian Gold Rush
How the Australian gold rushes of the 19th century shaped the nation, from the first discovery to rebellion and political change…

44 Australia's national treasure
When someone discovered a new stone in the Australian Outback, it changed the game forever

46 Ned Kelly: Robber or revolutionary?
He's a national hero to some, a cunning crook to others - why is Australia so divided over one of its most enduring icons?

52 The federation of Australia
How six individual colonies came together to create the unified nation of Australia

56 5 shocking facts about the White Australia Policy
The repressive laws designed to deter migrants

58 The Australian Settlement
Coming out from the shadow of the British Empire, Australia was ready to make waves

60 The Boer Wars
As Britain went to war in South Africa, Australia was ready to offer support

62 Heroes of the Victoria Cross: John Bisdee
The 1st Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen's Contingent in action against the Boers at Warmbad, Rooikop, Transvaal, South Africa, 1 September 1900

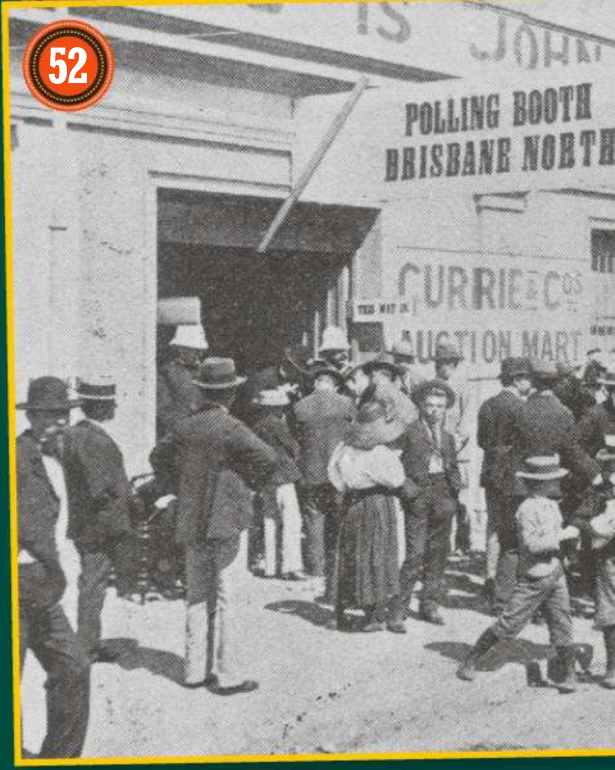
66 Australia in World War I
As the world went to war, Australians were ready to sign up

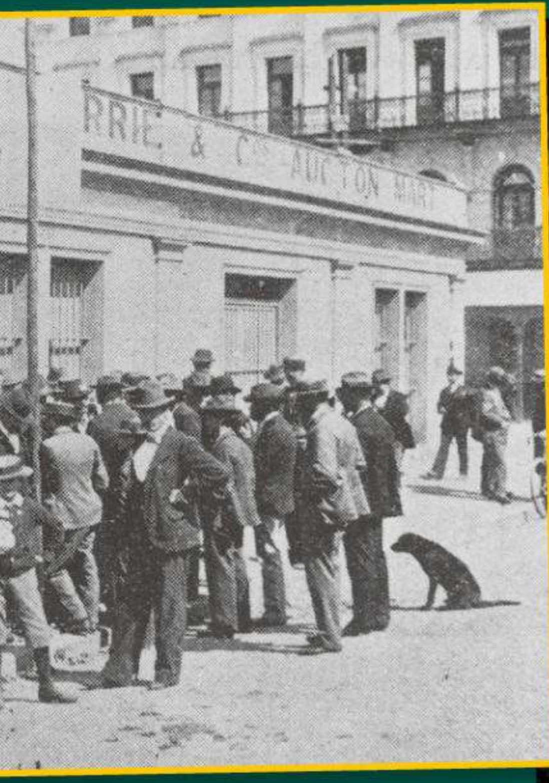
68 Heroes of the Victoria Cross: Henry Dalziel
World War I: Battle of Hamel, 4 July 1918

72 Charge of the Light Horse
The Light Horse have a special place in Australian history, particularly feted for their role in the Battle of Beersheba

78 Charge at The Nek: 'Nothing but bloody murder'
Author, historian and battlefield guide Stephen Chambers explores how myth-making and nationalism have obscured the tragic truth behind this infamous but iconic battle

84 A sovereign nation
Born from necessity and the desire to be independent, Australia's days as a dominion were numbered





86 Razor gangs: Sex, slashers and sly grog
In the wake of a new era for Australia, vice-hungry vagabonds ruled the streets of Sydney

92 The history of the Flying Doctor
The incredible history of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and how one minister's dream helped those living in the most remote parts of the Australian Outback

96 World War II
When Britain declared war on Germany and its allies, Australia wasn't far behind

98 Australia's Thin Green Line
In 1942 Australia stood on the brink of invasion by the Japanese. Its last line of defence: citizen soldiers willing to lay their lives on the line in the hellish conditions of the Kokoda Trail

106 New Australians
After World War II the Australian government realised that it needed to boost immigration for the sake of productivity and defence

110 Timeline of the Royal Australia Regiment
Known as the 'RAR', this infantry force is a senior regiment in the Australian Army and has seen extensive action in major wars during its history

112 Western Pacific deployments
The RAR saw extensive action between 1950-72, from the freezing conflict in Korea to the jungles of Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam

114 Kapyong 1951
This intense battle was the most significant of the Korean War for the RAR, whose Third Battalion helped save the capital Seoul from communist occupation

116 RAR heroes and commanders
The Royal Australian Regiment's highly professional personnel have included courageous troops, knights and a Victoria Cross recipient

118 RAR in Vietnam
The regiment was arguably the most significant military component of Australia's involvement in the deeply controversial conflict

120 Arts and culture Down Under
From the Heidelberg School to Ozploitation and *Neighbours*, Australia has a rich legacy when it comes to local arts and culture

124 Indigenous rights
Aboriginal Australians are still fighting for their rights after centuries of mistreatment

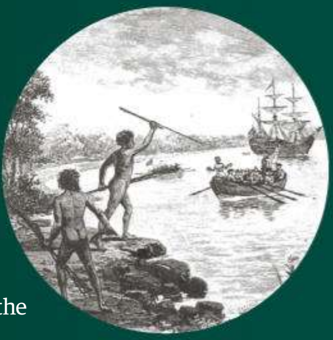
126 Hall of Fame: Indigenous Australians
Meet the people who overcame prejudice to achieve great things

AUSTRALIA ACROSS HISTORY

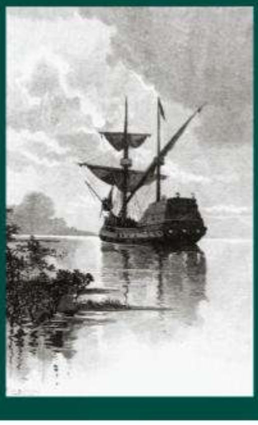
How a rich Indigenous past and centuries of colonial rule shaped one the world's most diverse countries

ABORIGINAL ARRIVAL

The first Aboriginal peoples arrive in Australia by boat from South East Asia, during the time of the last great Ice Age. These Indigenous Australians live undiscovered until the 17th century.



C. 45-50,000 BCE



EUROPEAN LANDING

The first known landing in Australia is by Dutch explorer Willem Janszoon. He is one of many Dutch travellers to explore the continent in the 17th century, and it is dubbed New Holland.

1606

WORLD WAR I

Despite there being just

4.9 MILLION people in Australia,

420,000 volunteer to fight.

60,000 DIE

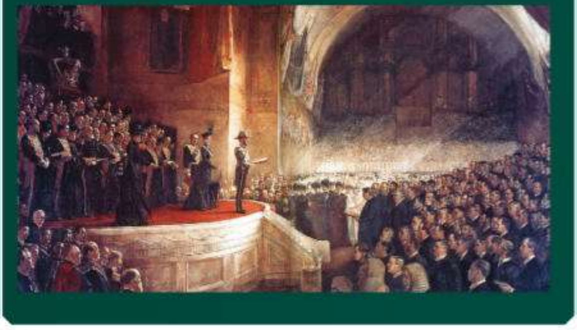
including **8,141** men in eight months of fighting at Gallipoli on the Turkish coast.

Anzac day, an annual holiday, is held on 25 April to mark the first landings at Gallipoli.

1914

AUSTRALIA BECOMES A NATION

After years of calls for a union between the six British colonies, the Commonwealth of Australia comes into being under one constitution and is controlled by a new federal government.



1901

PENAL TRANSPORTATION ENDS

In the midst of strong opposition from free, middle-class settlers, penal transportation ends. More than 150,000 convicts had been sent to territories across Australia.

1868

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Australia is badly hit by the worldwide economic downturn, and finds comfort in its love of sport. On 6 January, 21-year-old cricketer Don Bradman hits a world record 452 not out in a Sheffield Shield game in Sydney.

1930

THE BATTLE OF DARWIN

Australia offers huge support to the Allies during World War II. The Bombing of Darwin, by 242 Japanese aircraft, is the largest attack ever mounted by a foreign power on Australia.

The Japanese attacks on 19 February destroyed 30 aircraft, sunk 11 vessels and damaged 25 ships in Darwin.

1942

IMMIGRATION BOOM

After the war, hundreds of thousands of migrants from Europe and the Middle East arrive in Australia. Many find jobs in the booming manufacturing industry.

1950S

1700

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

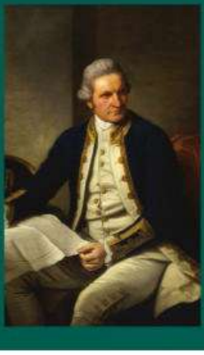
Up to **1 MILLION** Aboriginal people live across Australia

These people are split into **300 CLANS**

They speak **250 LANGUAGES**

1770

COMING OF THE BRITISH

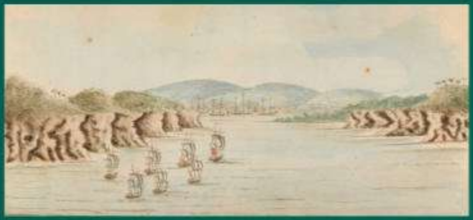


Captain James Cook moors HMB Endeavour at Botany Bay and charts the east coast of New Holland for Great Britain, before returning home with plans to establish a penal colony.

1788

THE FIRST FLEET ARRIVES

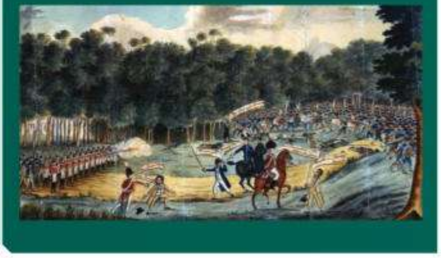
A fleet of 11 ships from Britain arrives in Sydney Harbour, carrying more than 1,000 settlers, including 778 convicts.



1804

CASTLE HILL REBELLION

A battle that pits convicts against colonial authority in the British colony of New South Wales rages. It is suppressed under martial law - the first and only time in Australian history.



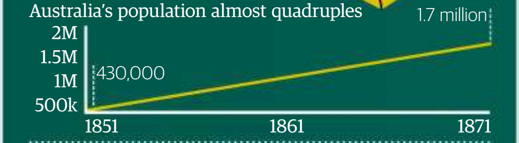
Phillip Cunningham, the leader of the convict rebels at Castle Hill, was a veteran of the 1798 rebellions in Ireland.

1851

THE GOLD RUSH

From Mount Alexander, **1.1 MILLION** KILOGRAMS OF GOLD are transported.

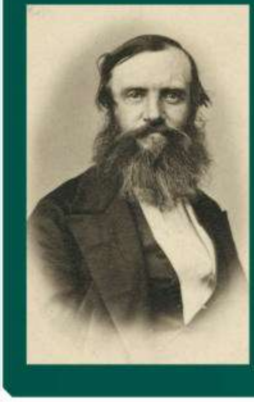
Australia's population almost quadruples



290,000 people emigrate to Victoria from Britain.

1862

JOHN MCDOUALL STUART CROSSES AUSTRALIA



The explorer becomes the first European to traverse Central Australia from south to north, paving the way for the discovery of Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (Mount Olga).

The Australian Overland Tyelegraph Line was constructed along Stuart's route in 1871-72.

1973

THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE OPENS

One of the modern world's most iconic buildings, the Sydney Opera House opens its doors for the first time as a first-class performing arts centre in the heart of the city.

2000

OLYMPIC GAMES

Sydney hosts the summer Olympic Games to worldwide acclaim. Indigenous Australian runner Cathy Freeman, who would also go on to win the 400 metres gold medal, lights the Olympic flame during the opening ceremony.

2010

FIRST FEMALE PRIME MINISTER

Julia Gillard, as leader of the Labor Party, becomes Australia's first female prime minister. Gillard forms a minority government after the federal elections produce a hung parliament.

Though born in Wales, Gillard renounced her British citizenship shortly before entering parliament in 1998.

A group of Aboriginal Australian men pose with a boomerang

ABORIGINAL HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA

Long before European colonisation, Australia was home to Aboriginal peoples, who have a long legacy of inhabiting the island continent as well as rich and powerful oral traditions that tell the story of the land

Words by Charles Ginger

The human history of Australia goes back at least 65,000 years. While anthropologists may disagree on the finer points of exactly when and how the first humans arrived, what is certain is that those first peoples quickly learned how to live in harmony with an elemental landscape that was sometimes bountiful, and sometimes harsh and unforgiving. That landscape and its unique flora and fauna left an indelible mark on the Indigenous peoples' myths, legends and oral histories.

The Dreaming

In the beginning there was darkness - an impenetrable abyss devoid of even the rumour of life. But then, 65,000 years ago, something stirred from within the blackness: the spirit of life was emerging, and inside its mind a beautiful, swirling dream was taking hold, one that would never end.

An incandescent flame roared forth, illuminating the spirit's restless visions. Then came a ferocious wind, itself followed by unrelenting rains. Clashing, dancing and intertwining, these mighty elements waged war upon each other as the dream intensified. Eventually, exhausted by battle, they began to cede ground to new visions of skies, seas and land. The world was forming, forged by competing powers whose fury drained the spirit of life, which in turn dispatched the secret of dreaming to Earth along with creator beings that would continue it.

First entering the spirit of Barramundi the fish, the secret descended into the depths within its sleeping host (who wished only to dream of water and did not fully comprehend the gift bestowed upon him) before passing on to the turtle Currikee, then Bogai the lizard and on to Bunjil the eagle, within whom the dream took to the skies. Coonerang, a possum, next received the secret of dreaming, then Gangurru the kangaroo, yet each creature wished only to see the skies and the trees and the plains that would be its home, and none could understand the dream.

With music and laughter ringing in his ears, Gangurru passed the secret on to its final keeper: mankind. Descending into a dream that encompassed all that had come before them, the first man and woman also saw the coming of Earth's first child.

Content that its dream was finally understood, and that humanity recognised its role as the guardian of its spirit brethren, the spirit of life sank into the earth and was at peace, the first of countless spirits to do so when their journey comes to an end.

So, according to one account in the annals of Aboriginal history, began the universe and the world we inhabit. Others say that colossal creator beings, such as the Rainbow Serpent, helped to shape the rivers, hills and mountains, and provide fertile land for life. Formidable if angered, it is said that when a rainbow arcs through the sky, it is in fact this ancient snake slithering from one watering hole to another.

Other parts of Australia are said to have been created during titanic struggles between spirits. The lands around the Jenolan Caves (located in the Blue Mountains, just under 200 kilometres west of Sydney) are believed by the Gundungurra people to be the result of a fight between the eel-like Gurangatch and his quoll nemesis, Mirragan. As the beasts savaged each other, they tore the surrounding land apart and cleared a path for the Cox and Wollondilly rivers that still supply Sydney with water today.

Whether the lands and rivers of the world were formed by celestial brain or colossal brawn, the Dreaming, as this period of creation is known

TIDDALIK THE FROG

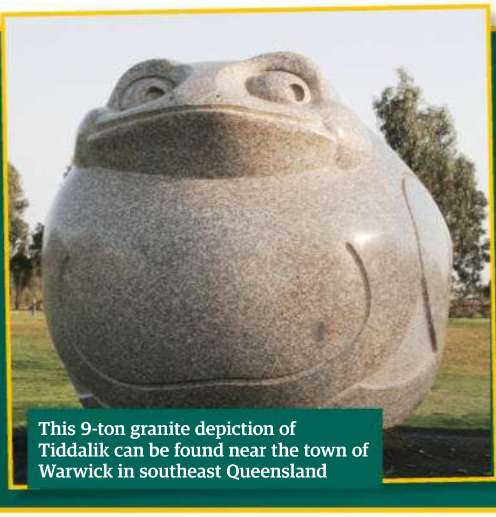
As Aboriginal cave art and oral histories testify, the history of Australia is awash with wondrous creation stories that help to explain how the world came to be. One tale is the storyof Tiddalik.

Waking one morning with an unquenchable thirst, Tiddalik the frog proceeded to consume every drop of fresh water he could find. Eventually the once-parched amphibian had drained every lake, river and watering hole around, condemning all other living things to an unrelenting thirst. If the frog couldn't be convinced to relinquish the water then everything would die.

Joining forces, man and beast convened a council to try and formulate a solution. After various ideas had been mooted and then dismissed, a wise old owl suddenly came up with an inspired answer: make Tiddalik laugh.

Gathering around the giant frog, various animals took it in turns to dance, sing and regale Tiddalik with hilarious anecdotes, but the frog remained worryingly unmoved. The fate of all life in Australia appeared sealed. Then an eel slithered forth and began a series of bizarre contortions.

As the eel finished its performance with a whirl of spins and pirouettes, Tiddalik could take no more. His huge mouth twisted into a thunderous laugh, and a tsunami rushed free from his quivering belly. The land was once more adorned with glistening lakes and rivers. The land was saved.



This 9-ton granite depiction of Tiddalik can be found near the town of Warwick in southeast Queensland

to the Aboriginal people, is the central basis for all life. The creator beings, be they the Rainbow Serpent or his rival Dirawang (an unseen entity that the Bundjalung people of New South Wales view as their protector against the multi-coloured menace of the serpent) remain on Earth, having transformed themselves into sacred sites or capricious elements like thunder and lightning. The spirits are ever-present, and it is they who have preordained life, meaning that all man must do is live within the confines of divinely instilled rules and he will know peace and remain at one with the natural world around him. The totemic belief system of Australia's first people dictates that these great spirits permeate all life, forever rooting humanity to the Earth.

THE RAINBOW SERPENT IS A CREATOR DEITY IN ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIAN MYTHOLOGY

Even so, the first man and woman to walk upon the new world not only dreamed of their future child, but also of travelling far and wide, which begs a key question: how did they reach the gigantic island that is Australia in the first place?

A land divided

Australia has not always been the huge island that dominates the bottom right-hand corner of modern maps, for it was once connected to New Guinea as part of an 8.6-million-kilometre-square landmass known as Sahul. Severed from Antarctica around 30 million years ago, Sahul drifted slowly northwards until it collided with what is today Southeast Asia. The impact of the Australia-New Guinea tectonic plate hitting its Eurasian counterpart jolted New Guinea out of position and rippled down into the Torres Straits to the south. Yet despite this earth-shuddering meeting of plates, New Guinea and Australia were connected by land until as recently as 8,000 years ago. Furthermore, while rising sea levels consumed the territory between them, land bridges emerged during times of lower sea levels. It is likely, therefore, that early humans reached Australia from southern Asia by island hopping (only 90 kilometres separated the island of Timor from Sahul during periods of low seas), and they probably came ashore on bamboo rafts.

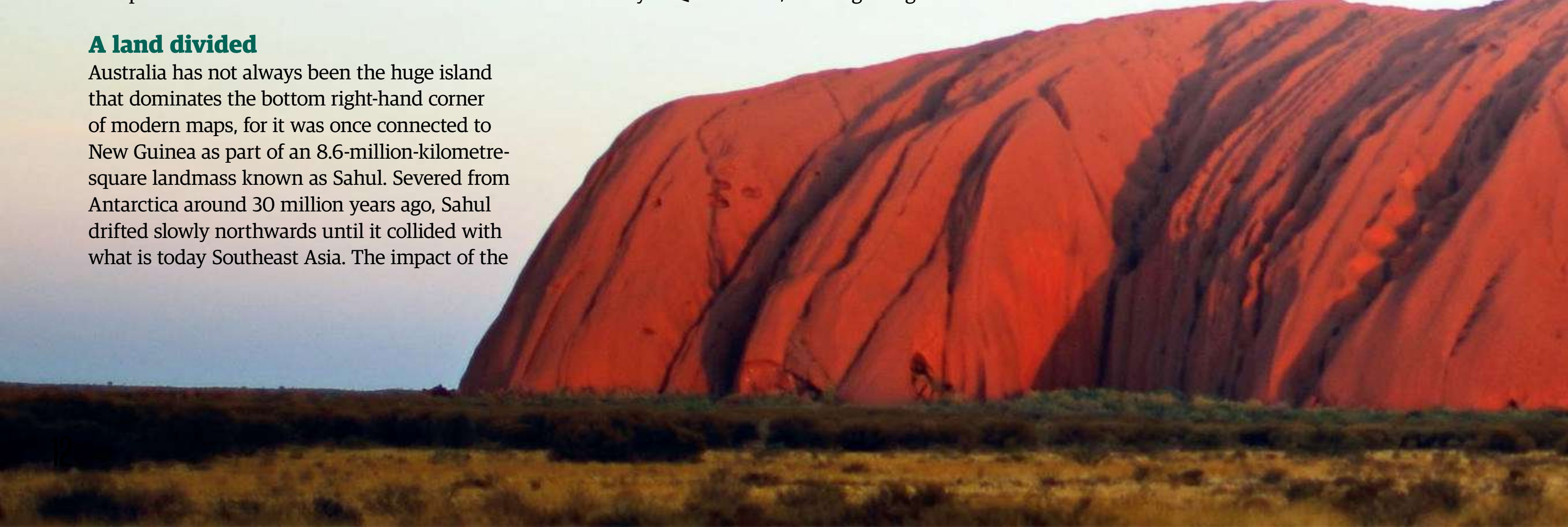
Whether these hardy travellers were driven by an urge to colonise new lands, were seeking to escape population pressures or were swept ashore remains unclear, but while the question of why they came may never be answered, when they did so is becoming increasingly clear.

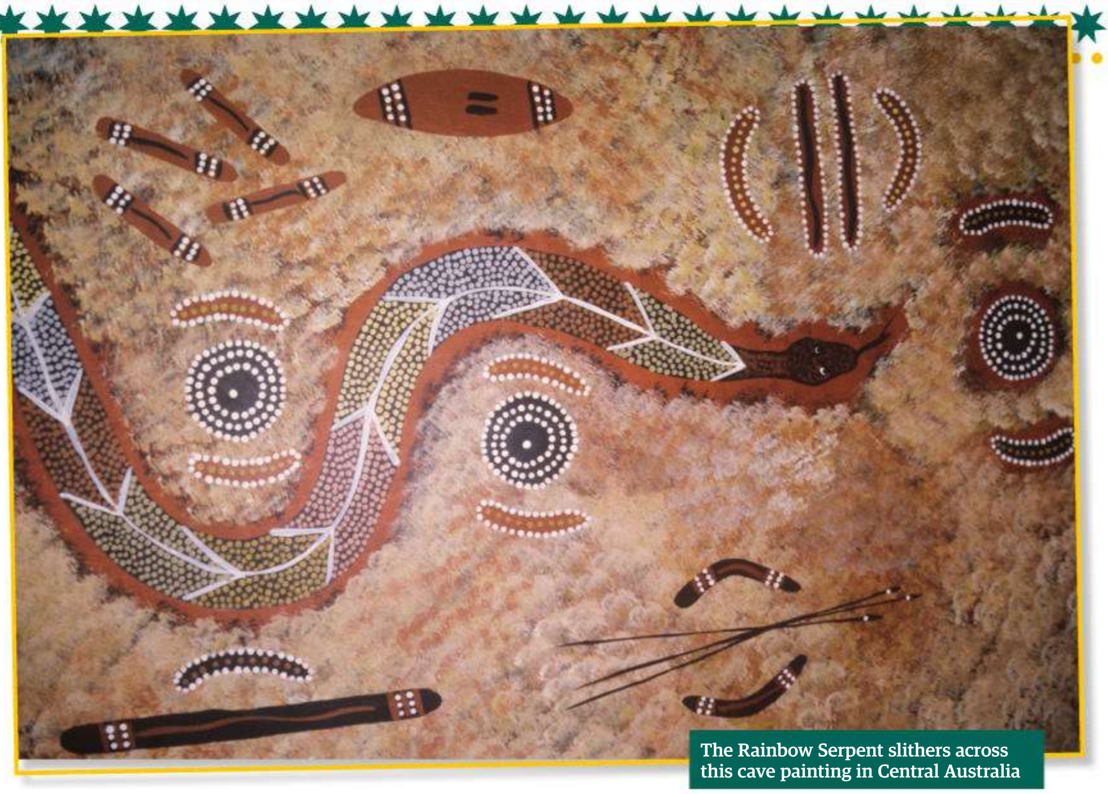
Between 2012 and 2015, archaeologists from the University of Queensland, working alongside the local Mirrar Aboriginals, excavated a rock shelter in Madjedbebe in Arnhem Land (an area located in Australia's Northern Territory and heavily populated by Aboriginal Australians), and what they unearthed immediately rewrote the history of the first settlers to reach Australia.

Secreted beneath the parched earth were numerous tools dating back 65,000 years, setting back the clock on humans arriving on the continent by around 20,000 years at a stroke. Among their many finds, the team uncovered seed-grinding tools and ochre crayons that would have been used to make pigments. Edge-ground hatchets that predate all previously uncovered examples were also dug up.

In order to be certain about the age of the artefacts they had found, the team utilised radiocarbon dating and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL – a method that measures how much time has passed since sand granules last saw sunlight) to accurately date the site.

Not only did the findings revolutionise our understanding of Aboriginal Australian – and thereby humankind's – history, but they suggested that the first settlers in Australia shared their arid home with megafauna for approximately 20,000 years before the land giants became extinct.





The Rainbow Serpent slithers across this cave painting in Central Australia

Numerous examples of cave art discovered throughout Australia support this hypothesis, with many large animals depicted alongside humans in various scenes.

If the findings of a separate excavation at a site called Moyjil in Warrnambool, Victoria, confirm what some scientists believe, humans may well have dwelt in Australia for 120,000 years. Unfortunately the most recent studies were curtailed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, but this ancient Aboriginal clifftop may soon surrender secrets that could utterly transform the current narrative of human evolution in Australia and beyond.

A skeletal story

To date, the oldest human fossil found in Australia is thought to be between 20,000-40,000 years old. Unearthed in 1974 at Lake Mungo (a dry lake situated in southwest New South Wales), the remains of LM3 (Lake Mungo Man) are believed to have belonged to a man who lived up to 40,000 years ago and died at the ripe old age (for an early human) of 50. Afforded a ceremonial burial and dusted in red ochre, LM3's remains revealed the true age of some important Aboriginal burial rites.

Five years prior to LM3's excavation, archaeologists had found the bones of LM1 (Lake Mungo Woman), a female thought to have been alive between 19,000-24,700 years ago and one of the oldest known people to have been cremated.

Kow Swamp in northern Victoria is another key Aboriginal location that was once home to the remains of over 22 people, while the Keilor archaeological site (also in Victoria) has proffered the remains of both man and megafauna as well as 31,000-year-old hearths, meaning it is one of the earliest known sites of human habitation.

Yet by far the most famous Aboriginal landmark is Uluru, or Ayers Rock. Meaning 'great pebble', Uluru has witnessed human activity for around 30,000 years, and while it is not littered with bones, it is regarded as sacred by the Anangu people, who believe the rock is a place of rest for creator spirits. Famed for changing colour throughout the day, Uluru is thought to have formed underwater 60 million years ago.

The first peoples

To an outsider it may seem that the term 'Aboriginal' serves as a name for a single population, a disparate but ultimately homogeneous people. However, in truth there are hundreds of different clans (prior to the arrival of British settlers in 1788 there were perhaps as many as 500), each equipped with their own tongues and belief systems.

While the majority of Indigenous Australians lived in coastal areas, others occupied islands off the mainland, including the Tiwi Islands to the north and Tasmania in the south. Others remained closer to New Guinea, settling on the Torres Strait Islands above the northern tip of Queensland.

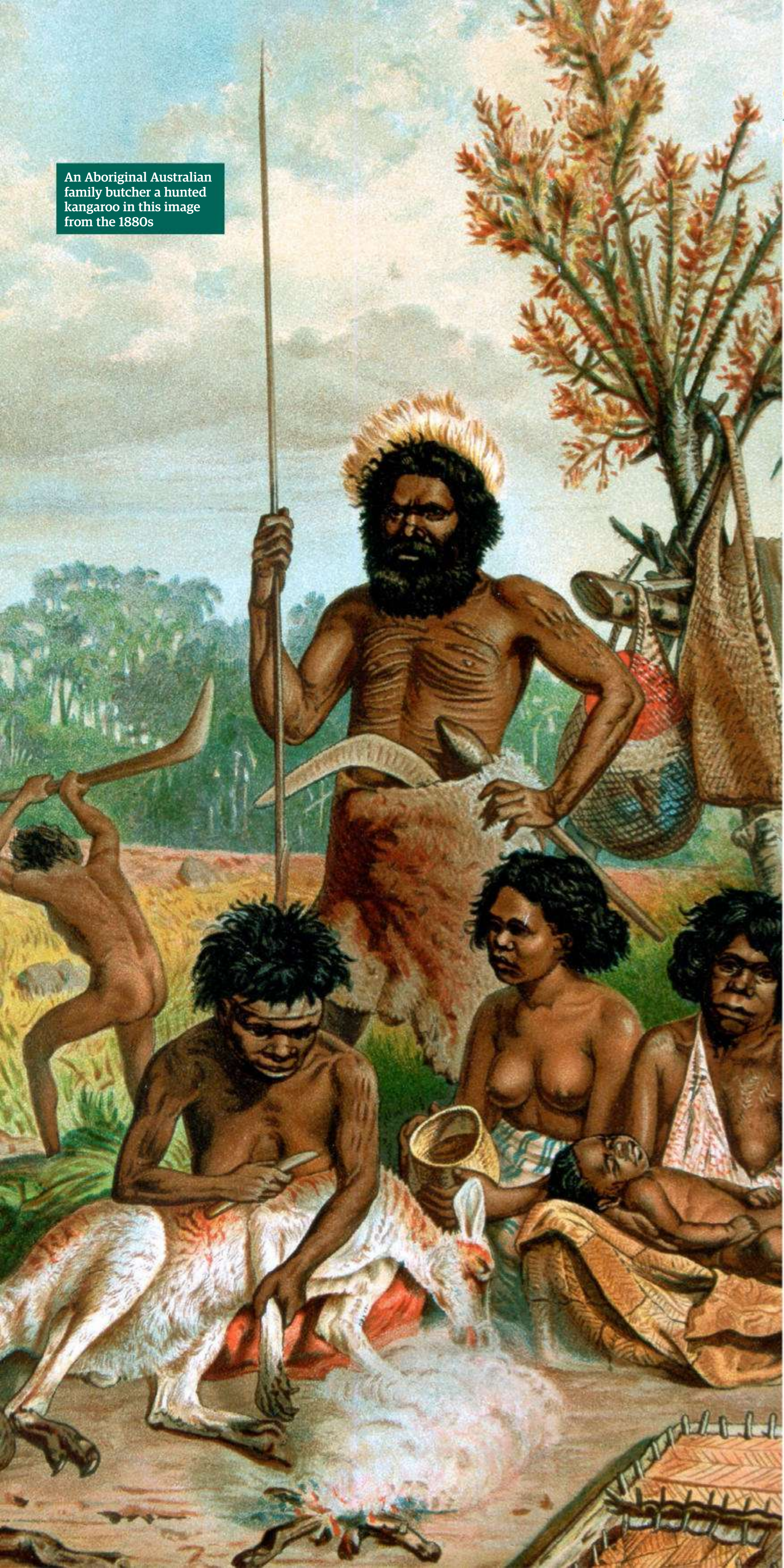
Although they are classified as Aboriginals, the Torres Strait Islanders are of Melanesian descent and share many traits and customs with the people of what is today Papua New Guinea. They differ from their mainland cousins linguistically, speaking Kalaw Lagaw Ya, Meriam Mir and the English-based Torres Strait Creole, and their population (which today stands at around 32,500 people) comprises five cultural groups: Meriam (Eastern), Guda Malvilgal (Top Western), Malvilgal (Near Western), Kulkalgal (Central) and Kaiwalagal (Inner Islands).

As with other Aboriginal clans, the Torres Strait Islanders have a mix of beliefs, with some subscribing to the Dreaming creation story while others heed the teachings of Tagai, a deity who connects the islanders to the stars and instructs that everything beneath them has a rightful place.

Another major group is the Anangu. Mainly present in the Central Western desert, this collective of tribes includes the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara peoples. To their north live the Warlpiri, with a population of up to 6,000 (around half of whom still speak the Warlpiri language) that divides its people into eight groups, subsections linked to kinships that dictate an individual's right and obligations within the family.

These are just a few of the many different groups of Aboriginal people that have inhabited

Uluru (also known as Ayers Rock) is held as a sacred resting place for spirits in the Aboriginal faith


An Aboriginal Australian family butcher a hunted kangaroo in this image from the 1880s

Australia for thousands of years – a hardy, industrious collection of settlers who share many rites and beliefs but also continue to preserve their own. Yet despite their many different ways, the descendants of the first people to call Australia home are all linked by one activity: agriculture.

Finding and farming

When the first British settlers arrived in Australia in 1788, it served their interests to depict the natives as roaming savages, nomads with no sense of direction or purpose, let alone a grasp of something as advanced as farming. In fact, as many early colonists privately admitted, nothing could have been further from the truth. By the time the British were creeping across Australian territory, the Aboriginals' days of hunting and gathering were an ancient memory. These people didn't just appreciate the basics of agriculture: they were masters at it.

Upon first arriving in Australia, early humans had no choice but to survive by hunting native species and gathering any available food (mainly in the form of nuts, seeds, shrubs and fruit and vegetables). Locating precious watering holes would also have been imperative for these ancient people. However, over time, as with populations elsewhere (although much later), Indigenous Australians began to develop some highly sophisticated agricultural methods as they enhanced their knowledge of the lands they now lived on.

Various British settlers attested to the natives' skill in this area in their private records and drawings. One such image depicts Aboriginal women digging in a deliberately deforested area for murong (a type of yam), while another account describes Indigenous Australians using stone knives to harvest millet over a stretch of 1,000 acres. Others noted how they would leave the bottom part of a parsnip yam (known as a murnong) in the earth in order to ensure that fresh ones would grow.

Even more impressive was their use of strategically planted trees and excavated watering holes to help keep animals away from crops, a process that had the added side effect of making hunting easier as nearby animals were contained by the natural barriers.

Despite the harsh environment, a grain belt curved across vast swathes of Australia, and the natives were known to be able to preserve up to 50 kilograms of grain inside an animal skin for lengthy periods of time. Carefully crafted haystacks were used to ripen seeds that were then used to make bread, and 30,000-year-old grind stones found in Cuddie Springs in eastern Australia make Indigenous Australians the world's first bakers.

Mounds of earth and hollowed trees were used respectively as ovens and fireplaces in which bread could rise and fish (caught using ingenious traps built at different heights so that they could be snared during a drought or a flood, or with manmade estuaries that funnelled them into holding ponds) could cook, as well as other meats. Many clans were also known to descend upon the Australian Alps to catch Bogong moths with nets. The unfortunate insects were pulverised into a paste that could then be used to make cakes. But perhaps most impressive of all was the ability of the Central Desert peoples to harvest the bush tomato for thousands of years in a climate largely devoid of rainfall.

The use of strategic burning, planting and clearing helped to cultivate a beautiful landscape that Thomas Mitchell (who would become assistant surveyor general of New South Wales in 1827) would describe as “an extensive park”. Understanding that their fortunes were intrinsically linked to the health of the land, Aboriginal Australians always ensured their methods would help to maintain good soil quality, and they went to great lengths to avoid impacting the landscape beyond what was needed for survival. Nonetheless, their yields were remarkable, with evidence of 10,000 people occupying one town.

Tragically, the arrival of the British would result in the upsetting of this carefully maintained equilibrium, with Australia regressing into a land of harsh shrubs and weeds as the natives who once tended it saw their bountiful lands wrenched from them.

Aboriginal inventions

Forward-thinking farming techniques are far from the Aboriginal people’s only legacy. As the saying goes, necessity is the mother of invention, and carving out a living in such an inhospitable landscape meant they had to adapt fast, resulting in an array of ingenious inventions.

Arguably the most recognisable creation is the boomerang, which was usually fashioned by cutting a tree root off at the point where it connected to the main trunk. The wood could then be heated to make it more malleable before being shaped into its iconic curve. It would then be treated with grease and decorated, sometimes with clan emblems and symbols.

Ideal for knocking out a fleeing kangaroo or bird, boomerangs were used for both hunting and fighting, with some featuring a thicker clubbed end to enhance the tool’s lethality. Even though they were not all that widespread throughout Australia, the fact that a 10,000-year-old example was uncovered in Wyrie Swamp, South Australia, testifies to this unique weapon’s longevity.

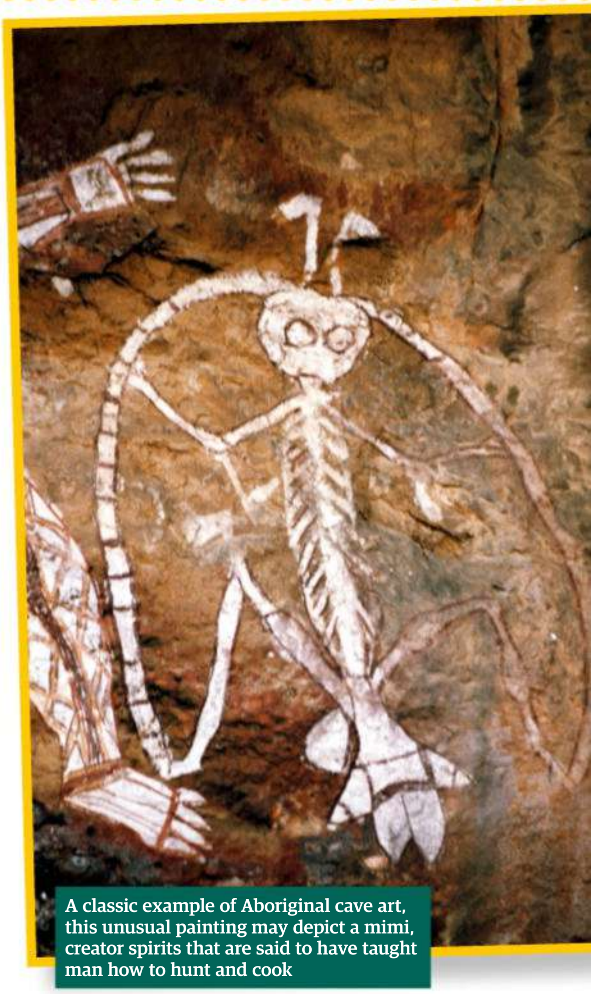
Another crafty tool was a thermoplastic resin made from grass trees. A tree would be battered into giving up its resin, which would then be cleaned ready for heating. Once warm the resin would become sticky, ideal for gluing stone and wood together to make tools and weapons.

Water bags were yet another invention that enabled Australia’s resourceful early settlers to survive. Fashioned from the skin of a wallaby, these impermeable sacks allowed for the carrying of water over relatively long distances, fending off the very real threat of dying of thirst in the middle of the desert.

Natural remedies were also an area of particular expertise. Skin conditions and painful ulcers were treated with latex, and liquids such as tea tree oil were harvested to combat infections. Tannin (a compound found in leaves, tree bark and various fruits) would have been applied to calm inflammation and relieve pain.

Not all inventions were designed for serious purposes. The didgeridoo, which is the oldest wind instrument known to man and has 45 different names, was carved from various woods including eucalyptus (and originally bamboo according to some of the names given to this complex instrument). Traditional didgeridoo makers know how to locate trees that have seen their internal deadwood stripped by termites, making for the perfect hollow tube needed to shape the instrument. Once the wood has been cleaned and trimmed, a wax seal can be applied to the mouthpiece.

Simple in its appearance, a didgeridoo is in fact exceptionally hard to play correctly. The unique sound that emanates from the wide, open end of the instrument is created by the player constantly vibrating their lips and deploying a method known as circular breathing. This involves taking air in via the nostrils while at the same time breathing



A classic example of Aboriginal cave art, this unusual painting may depict a mimi, creator spirits that are said to have taught man how to hunt and cook

WALKING WITH GIANTS

It’s no secret that Australia is home to a vast wealth of beautiful and, in some cases, downright bizarre animals. Yet while kangaroos, koalas and the duck-billed platypus are all synonymous with Down Under, what about the creatures that roamed the plains of Australia before them? What kind of curious creatures inhabited this vast and harsh land before and even during the period of humans arriving? The answers are many and marvellous.

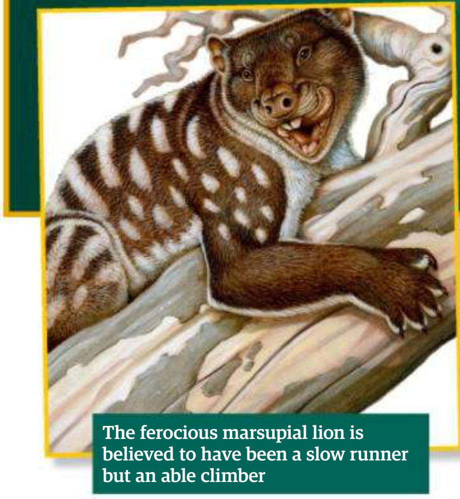
Prior to the dominance of Australia’s kangaroos, there lived a two-metre-tall giant descendant of the Outback’s famous hoppers: the Procoptodon goliah. Weighing up to 240 kilograms, this enormous short-faced species of kangaroo was too large to hop, but its muscular legs (which ended in a single claw) would have propelled it across the plains it inhabited, and its lengthy arms (which culminated in double-clawed paws) were ideal for reaching and stripping the leaves it fed on

Fossils dated to 46,000 years ago mean it is highly likely that early humans will have encountered this apparently aggressive vegetarian.

Another mammoth herbivore that plodded across Australia until 25,000 years ago was the Diprotodon, the largest marsupial to have ever lived. Tipping the scales at 2,800 kilograms, this rhino-sized furry mammal is a distant relative of koalas and wombats and is thought to have inspired tales of the dreaded Bunyip.

Scientists are still unsure as to why this slow-moving animal (which was almost six feet tall at the shoulder) became extinct, with some arguing that humans hunted them into the abyss, while others believe climate change may have been responsible.

As you would expect from a land that specialises in breeding lethal animals perfectly equipped for killing, not all of the megafauna that prowled ancient Australia subsisted on leaves and shoots. The marsupial lion (Thylacoleo carnifex, or ‘pouch lion’), as its name suggests, certainly didn’t. Boasting the most powerful bite of any mammal to have ever lived, this squat, muscular and utterly fearless predator (which became extinct around 30,000 years ago) was capable of bringing down a Diprotodon, relying on its stripes to keep it camouflaged until an unsuspecting animal approached. Pouncing on its target, this hunter may have used its blade-like claws to tear at its prey while sinking its teeth into its throat.



The ferocious marsupial lion is believed to have been a slow runner but an able climber

“Dependent on each other for survival, Indigenous Australians had no use for full-scale conflict”

stored air out of the mouth using the tongue and cheeks. Seasoned players can use this technique to maintain a note for minutes at a time and play for up to 50 minutes without pause.

Law of the Outback

As with many ancient cultures, the early Aboriginals deemed men to be superior to women. Adult males ruled territories known as estates, and it was common for a newly married woman to move into her husband’s territory and join his band (a group that consisted of two or more families that travelled and camped together, although often individual families would sleep and cook separately). For their part, males were charged with guarding sacred sites within their estates and arranging the religious ceremonies required to maintain the land.

As dictated by the unwritten but universally understood laws of the Dreaming, land could not be transferred to another band (or individual for that matter), but bands could venture far and wide in search of food, thereby delineating a ‘range’ they could return to later, and allowances were also made between groups that permitted the exchange of resources in times of food shortages, enabling one band to encroach on the territory of another purely for the purpose of borrowing supplies in order to survive.

The majority of people were born into categories from which they could never leave. These subdivisions were used to break a larger group down into easily referenced parts and helped to establish marital boundaries, marked out a distant relative from outsiders, and even played a role in religious rituals by determining an individual’s personal responsibilities.

Aboriginal society functioned through kinship, in which everyone was addressed with a close familial name, such as ‘father’ extending to uncles and ‘mother’ being used for aunts. These older generations would expect the utmost respect from their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Kin names strictly defined all relationships and determined whether two people could appropriately couple, share a joke or were to completely avoid each other. Siblings of the opposite sex often spent large parts of their lives apart after childhood, and men were forbidden from interacting with any female who was or could potentially be regarded as his mother-in-law.

ABORIGINAL WALKABOUT TRADITIONS WERE MISUNDERSTOOD BY WHITE COLONISTS AS AIMLESS WANDERING

Marriage tied families together, and it was incumbent upon the male to repay his new family for his bride, which often resulted in the new husband and wife swapping brothers for sisters. It was also common for marriages to be arranged before the future spouses were even born, and it was seen as vital that a girl’s betrothal was arranged before she reached puberty, a period during which she could be totally secluded from social life.

Prior to developing into a woman, a girl would often start living with her husband and thereby be seen by the rest of the band as married (although in some groups a couple was only considered married upon the birth of their first child). The number of wives a man could take varied wildly between different Aboriginal groups, but accounts of some men having as many as 29 prove that polygamy was a widely accepted custom.

If a wife tired of her husband or found him unsatisfactory, her options were limited, with elopement in the arms of a better suitor her only realistic choice. Unsurprisingly, men held the power when it came to marital strife, as they were able to simply hand a disappointing wife off to someone else (assuming that person could be convinced to wed her instead) or he could just decide to terminate the marriage with virtually no warning or official process required. Still, unfair as this may sound, Aboriginal women are not regarded by historians as having been a severely downtrodden group, and the men that acted as their keepers and guardians certainly had to earn the right to do so.

A boy’s life could change suddenly between the age of six to 16 (depending on the laws and customs of his band) when his initiation began. With the sound of women wailing and demonic chanting echoing in his ears (this rite of passage mimicked the mourning process so as to give the boy a new life as an adult upon completion of his initiation), a boy would leave camp and embark on a series of educational and disciplinary lessons in order to mould him into a man. Circumcision would then follow, after which

FRIGHTFUL FOLKLORE

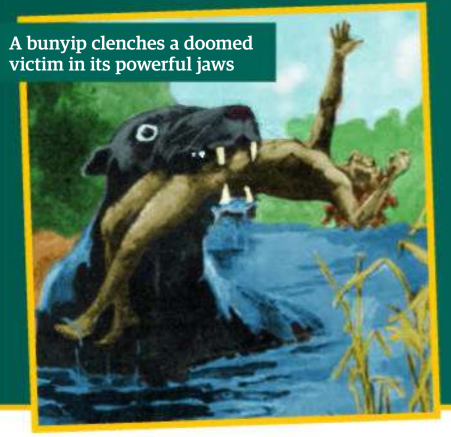
Ever since humans first began gathering around a campfire and swapping stories, monsters have been a fundamental part of cultures and religions, and Aboriginal Australians are no exception.

One of the most terrifying creatures to haunt the dreams of Aboriginals (and keep children from wandering off into the woods alone) is the Yara-ma-yha-who. Standing at about four feet, this smooth, red-skinned, hairless humanoid lurks in treetops waiting for a wreckless human to pass by. Plunging from the tree, this stumpy parasite will latch onto their victim and begin drinking their blood using their sucker-covered fingers and toes.

Taking just enough to incapacitate their prey, the Yara-ma-yha-who will then swallow the unconscious person head-first and waddle off to find some water before curling up for a nap. Upon waking it will regurgiate its still-living prey and then enjoy another sleep, providing the unlucky and no doubt shocked person a chance to flee. However, if the same person should be caught by the Yara-ma-yha-who again, they will begin to take its form, gradually losing their hair and turning red until they too begin to hide in the treetops waiting for blood.

Another terrifying entity that Aboriginals must beware of is the Bunyip. Afforded numerous different guises ranging from a large, cat-like animal to a scaled lizard, bunyips dwell in inland waters such as swamps and lakes, where they lurk beneath the surface. Should a person stray too close to the water the beast will lunge forwards and clamp them in its jaws, and no amount of kicking and screaming will save a victim from being pulled into the water and consumed.

Given its terrifying description, you’d forgive someone for wanting to put an end to any Bunyip they encountered, but to do so is to guarantee death. One unfortunate captain aboard a boat that was disturbed by a Bunyip ignored the pleas of his crew and shot the animal. Within days his skin was dotted with oozing sores, and two weeks after the incident he died a gasping, agonising death.


A bunyip clenches a doomed victim in its powerful jaws

An Aboriginal musician plays an elaborately decorated didgeridoo

he could begin to engage in adult activities such as hunting.

Intriguingly, in spite of the solid social rules and taboos that controlled Aboriginal life, early Australians bowed to no chief nor listened to the governance of any ruling body. Because everyone unquestionably believed that life was predetermined, there was no need to install a leader to direct bands or larger groups. In order to maintain control, a burden of self-restraint and shame was placed on all, the fear of being ostracised for breaching a sacred law proving more of a threat even than divine retribution. In the case of the ultimate crime, an inquest would seek to unmask the killer via divination.

Warfare and weaponry

Connected as they were to their homelands, and dependent upon each other for survival, Indigenous Australians had no use for full-scale conflict. However, that is not to say that inter-tribal violence never flared up – in fact, it was a regular part of life.

Due to Aboriginal social structures shunning the concept of an individual accruing power and recruiting followers, raiding parties were relatively small. The need to preserve as many band members as possible in order to source food and water also militated against larger forces attacking other encampments. But it only took a few warriors to inflict carnage.

Equipped with spears (which could be propelled further and faster with a woomera, a spear-throwing device), clubs, boomerangs and shields, a raiding party would often wait until nightfall before assaulting a target.

The motivation behind these brutal attacks, in which a few enemies or a particular target could be slain, was not the annexation of new land or the eradication of an entire tribe, because the aggressors, like all Aboriginal Australians, believed land ownership could never be changed. Why risk death or serious injury snatching territory you will never be connected to and thereby leave the earth that bore you? No, the cause of most conflict was either retribution (perhaps for a murder) or the taking of women, who would then become wives, mothers and foragers that would enhance the prospects of a band's survival.

The arrival and aggressive expansion of European settlers eventually forced bands to join together and fight in more traditional pitched battles in a bid to defend their homes and lands. Sadly, when coming up against the advanced firearms of the invaders, the Indigenous Australians had little to no chance of victory.

Slowly but surely, lands that had been carefully tended by the Aboriginal people for thousands of years were invaded and handed to white European settlers with no knowledge or love for their newly acquired territories. Australia, and the lives of its 300,000 to 1 million Aboriginals, would never be the same again.

THE GREAT LAND TO THE SOUTH
HOW THE WORLD DISCOVERED AUSTRALIA

The promise of a great southern land captivated sailors, pirates, merchants, kings and even popes. We discover how strong winds, astral bodies, religious fervour and economics led to Australia

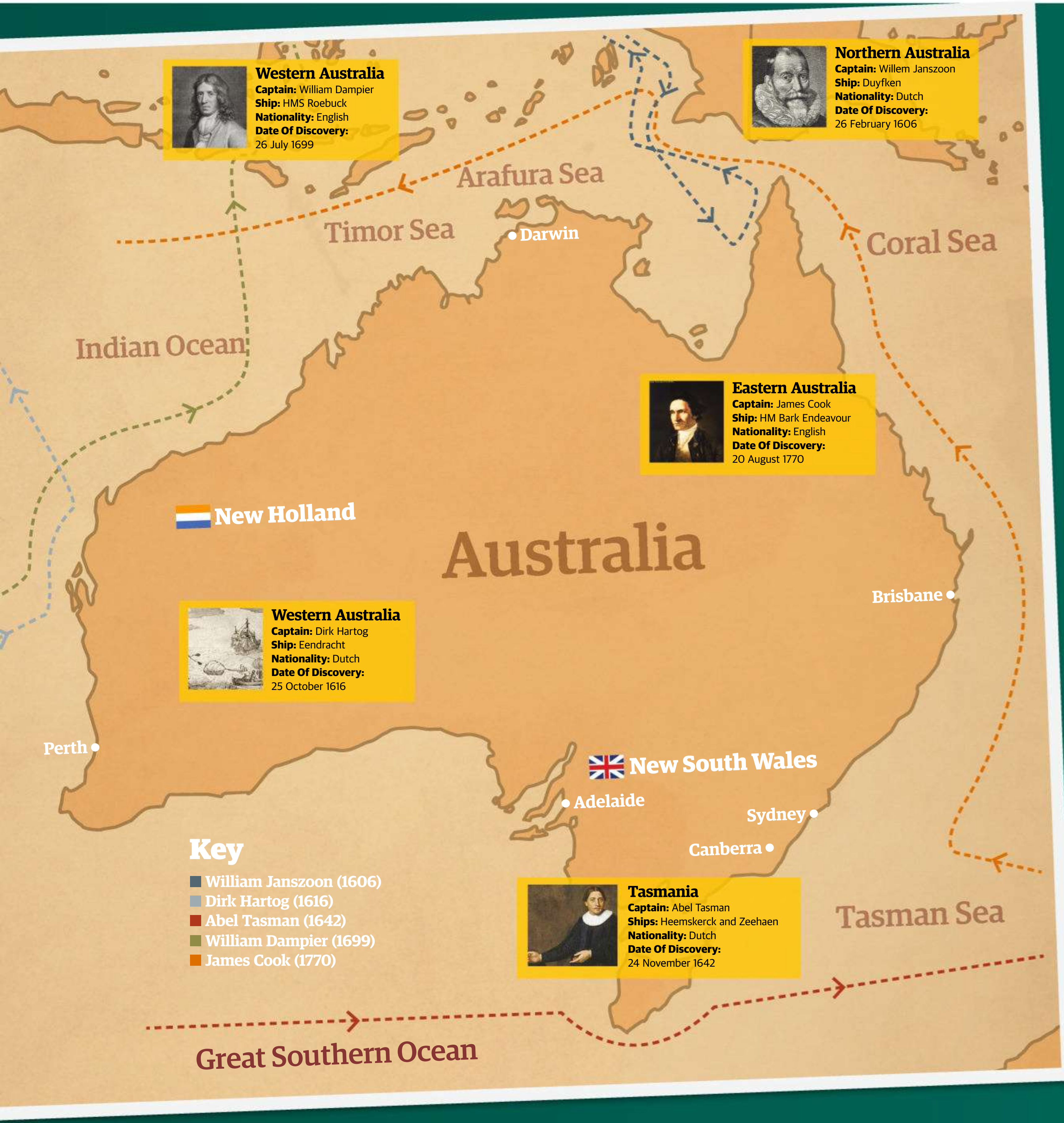
Words by James Hoare

On 20 August 1770, the flag of Great Britain was hoisted over the silver sands to flutter in the breeze. Three volleys were fired by the landing party, and then answered by the Bark Endeavour, moored in the bay.

James Cook and his crew had been at sea for 724 days and it had been 141 days since they had left New Zealand behind. Less than 100-strong, a tiny ship in a vast ocean, they had mapped the coastline, before tacking west to Van Diemen's Land, then north in search of the eastern coast of Terra Australis Incognita - the unknown land of the south - promised in his sealed orders.

Ostensibly in the Pacific to witness the rare transit of Venus across the sun, their's was a swashbuckling secret mission in the name of discovery, with a royal warrant to claim unsettled lands for the crown, and record alien sights and skies for science. When explorer, astronomer and enlightenment hero Lieutenant James Cook stepped ashore and claimed the great southern land for Britain - naming the whole eastern chunk of this vast continent New South Wales in the process - he wasn't discovering a new world so much as he was meeting an old friend.

The dream of Australia had dominated the European exploration of Asia for 400 years, and had been a myth of Atlantean proportions for much longer. Cook wasn't the first to arrive, flag in hand, and stretched out before him was a road paved with shipwreck, war, spice and piracy, but


Arafura Sea
Timor Sea
Darwin
Coral Sea
Indian Ocean
New Holland
Australia
Brisbane
Perth
New South Wales
Adelaide
Sydney
Canberra
Tasman Sea
Great Southern Ocean

Western Australia
Captain: William Dampier
Ship: HMS Roebuck
Nationality: English
Date Of Discovery:
26 July 1699

Northern Australia
Captain: Willem Janszoon
Ship: Duyfken
Nationality: Dutch
Date Of Discovery:
26 February 1606

Eastern Australia
Captain: James Cook
Ship: HM Bark Endeavour
Nationality: English
Date Of Discovery:
20 August 1770

Western Australia
Captain: Dirk Hartog
Ship: Eendracht
Nationality: Dutch
Date Of Discovery:
25 October 1616

Tasmania
Captain: Abel Tasman
Ships: Heemskerck and Zeehaen
Nationality: Dutch
Date Of Discovery:
24 November 1642

Key
🟦 William Janszoon (1606)
⬜ Dirk Hartog (1616)
🟥 Abel Tasman (1642)
🟩 William Dampier (1699)
🟧 James Cook (1770)

> "The dream of Australia dominated European exploration of Asia for 400 years, and had been a myth of Atlantean proportions much longer"

first, there had to be the idea itself. That idea was already well established.

15,913 kilometres (9,888 miles) and well over 1,000 years away, Pythagoras set light to Cook's imagination. Around 530 BCE, the Methuselah of mathematics had decamped to Croton in modern Italy to escape the tyranny in his Greek island homeland of Samos. Travelling widely from Egypt to India before founding his school of ideas and gathering his followers, he put his experiences to work, devising the theorem that bears his name, and a slightly less well-known one about the musical values of various lengths of string.

Pythagoras was also credited with the notion that our world was a sphere, and so there had to be a vast landmass to the south to balance this orb. Two centuries later, Aristotle advanced this theory based on the circular shadow of the Earth during a lunar eclipse and the changing places of constellations the further south you sailed. In the wake of Aristotle's studies of the night sky, the Roman geographer Pomponius Mela (1st century) produced maps dividing the world into northern and southern zones, and later the Greco-Roman astrologer, astronomer, geographer and all-round busy thinker Claudius Ptolemy (90–168 CE) compiled all the knowledge that he could of the world's regions into his immense *Geographia*, adding that the route to the great southern land was no doubt impassible due to "monstrosities."

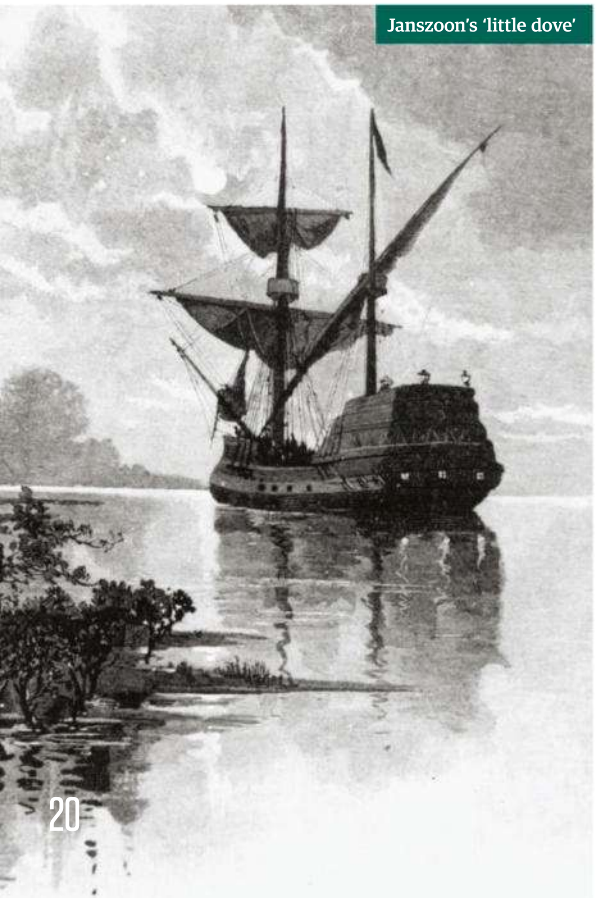
The idea of this new expanse – Terra Australis – took root in the foundation of Renaissance geography and cartography, until every map came with a vaguely defined great southern land. Just as Cook's 1768 mission – a fact-finding expedition for the Royal Society of London – came with its sealed orders to increase the reach of the British Empire, it was politics and economics that set his spiritual predecessors off on their voyages of discovery.

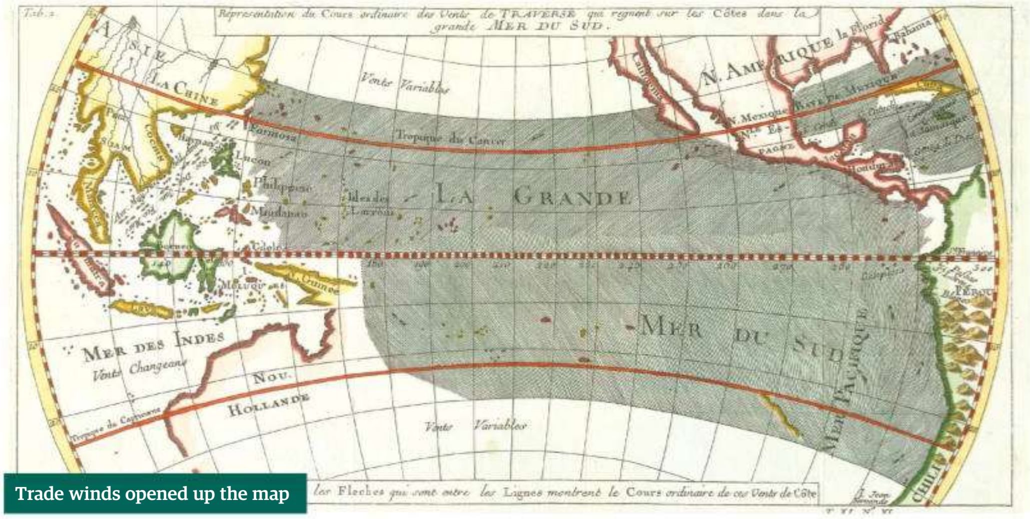
In 1368, the mighty Mongol Empire, that stretched from Eastern Europe to the Sea of Japan, collapsed, ruling out the overland journey to the riches of China and India. The surprisingly cordial relationship between the Khan and the Pope was replaced by tensions between Christian Europe and the rising Islamic Ottoman Empire, which closed the overland routes to the east. Their hand forced by demand for spices, silk, tea and porcelain, the mercantile nations – the Portuguese and Spanish at first, and then the Dutch, French and English – began to look for sea routes into the Indian Ocean and beyond.

While the European superpowers began to look upon their maps and globes anew, the powerful Tamil merchant dynasties of Sri Lanka established their own maritime trade empire that stretched its fingers across South East Asia between the 9th and 14th centuries. Their holds stuffed with the luxuries of India, and the traditional Tamil proverb "cross the oceans and acquire gold" on their lips, they made their presence felt through art and architecture in Thailand, Java, Malaysia, Vietnam and Cambodia. By the 18th century – though their once great empire had declined, replaced by colonial Portuguese, and then Dutch and British – Tamils were trading with the European settlers in New Zealand and Australia. Yet there's evidence to suggest that they'd been there before: a 14th century ship's bell, beautifully inscribed in Tamil, was found in 1836 being used as a Māori cooking pot.

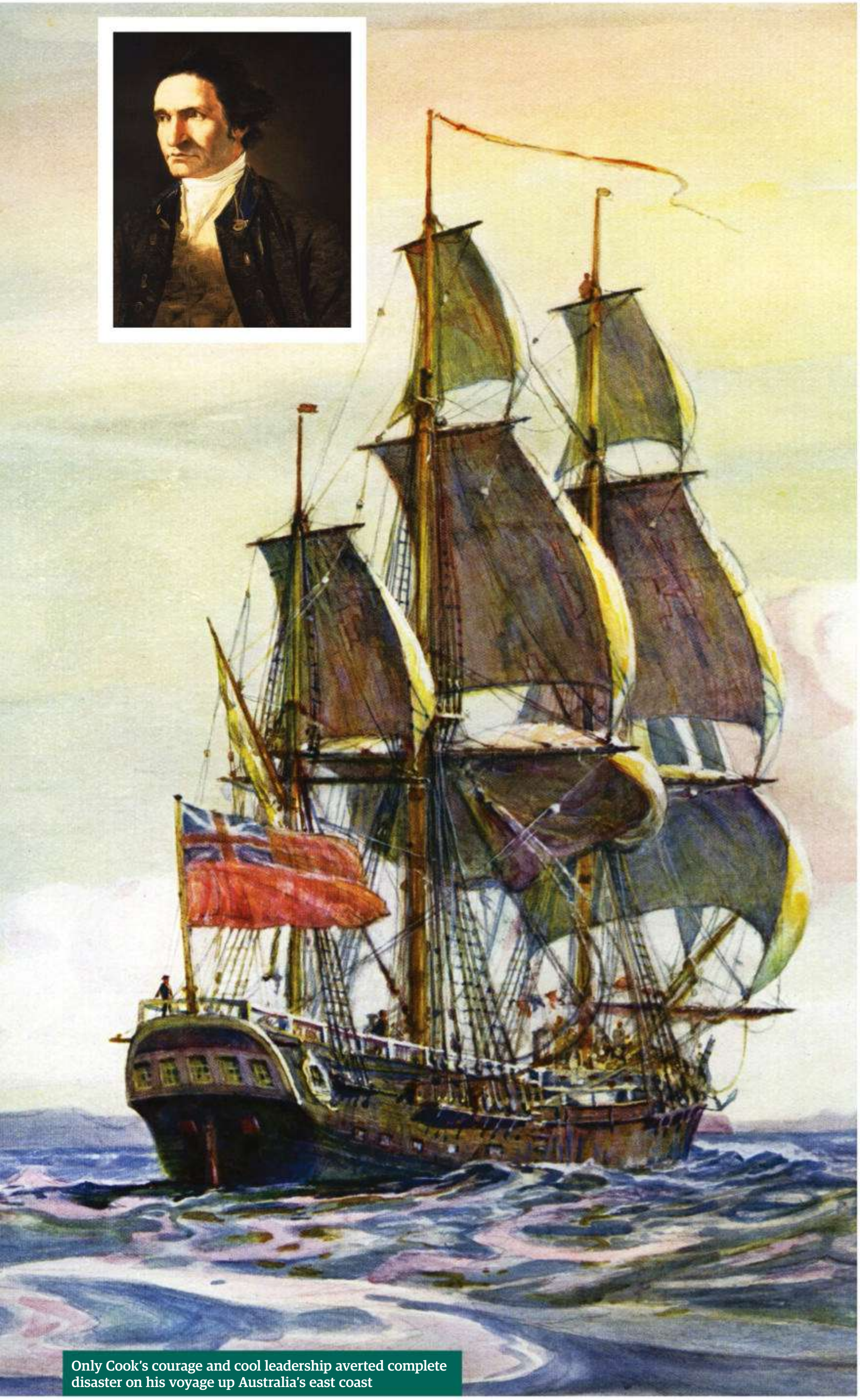
PYTHAGORAS WAS THE FIRST KNOWN EUROPEAN TO THEORISE ABOUT A GREAT SOUTHERN CONTINENT

Now locked in a mercantile Cold War, following a belligerent race for territory and trade across the gradually opening globe, the Portuguese and Spanish reached a frosty impasse with 1494's Treaty of Tordesillas, dividing North and South America between them, and then 1529's Treaty of Zaragoza which divided Asia. The Portuguese crown had rolled across East Africa, India and into Malaysia, with the city of Malacca and the nutmeg and clove-rich Spice Islands of the Banda Sea at the centre of their interests. They even set up a trading post on the island of Timor in 1590, only 720 kilometres (448 miles) from what is now Darwin in the Northern Territories. Claiming much of Asia as their own and setting the rival Spanish up for a future toehold in the spice-free Philippines,


Janszoon's 'little dove'



Trade winds opened up the map



Only Cook's courage and cool leadership averted complete disaster on his voyage up Australia's east coast

AUSTRALIA'S DISCOVERY OF THE WORLD

While European explorers tacked ever closer, Australia's nearer neighbours had already reached out for the great southern land, and it had reached back to them.

Between the 16th and 18th centuries (possibly as early as the 12th), Makassan trepangers – sailors from Sulawesi (now part of Indonesia) who harvested sea cucumbers for a Chinese market – traded fishing rights with indigenous Australians for cloth, tobacco, metal axes, knives, rice and gin, and the Aboriginals traded turtle shells, pearls and cypress pine in return. Some Aboriginals willingly joined Makassan crews to collect trepang.

The Makassan legacy ranged from smallpox to new words. With somewhere between 350 and 750 languages or dialects spoken by the same number of Aboriginal tribes, Makassar became the coastal lingua franca. Many words closely related to Javanese and Indonesian are still in use by Aboriginals today. The Makassans may have left the trappings of their faith, too, with some historians arguing that elements of Islam (adopted by Sulawesi in the 15th century) made their way into Aboriginal Australian ceremonies.

Contact with the Makassans span the Yolgnu's whole world on its axis, as they became focused on the sea, crafting resilient dugout canoes in Makassan style that allowed them as far out as the Torres Strait Islands and New Guinea. The Torres Strait Islanders themselves crafted outriggers and ocean-going dugouts up to 20 metres long for trade with both the mainland and New Guinea – a practice that continues even now, and is protected by the Torres Strait Treaty from all customs and border controls.

In this, at least, the way of life shared uninterrupted by the Australian Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders for over 40,000 years has gone unchanged.

The Makassar people were early traders with indigenous Australians and precious little else, the Zaragoza line neatly bisected New Guinea, and though they may not have known it, also that fabled Terra Australis Incognita.

With the support of Pope Clement VIII and King Phillip III, Pedro Fernandez de Queirós set off from Peru in 1603 with three ships to find and claim Terra Australis for Spain. Leaving navigation "to the Will of God" and landing on Vanuatu, just west of Fiji – mistaking it for his prize – he dubbed it La Austrialia del Espíritu Santo, the Southern Land of the Holy Spirit, before attempting to found a colony called Nova Jerusalem (and a holy order, the Knights of the Holy Ghost, to protect it). Nova Jerusalem collapsed ignominiously through the hostility of the Ni-Vanuatu and his own crew.

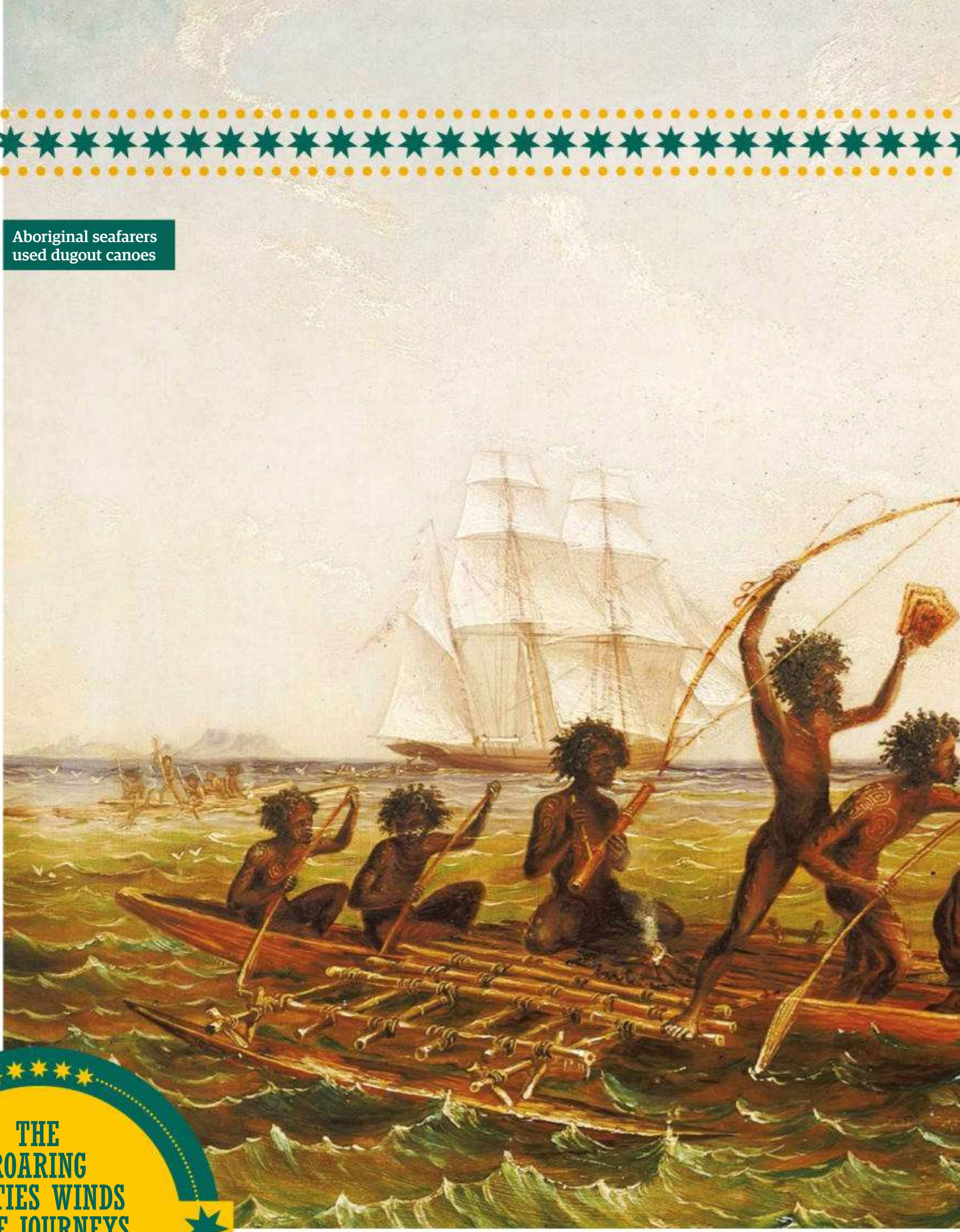
Ironically, it was actually de Queirós's second-in-command, Luís Vaz de Torres, who came the closest to realising his dream. Separated from de Queirós, de Torres led the two remaining ships to Manila. When winds forced him south of New Guinea instead of north, he and his crew became the first recorded seamen to navigate the strait that now bears his name, dividing New Guinea in the north from Australia in the south. Though he may not have locked eyes on the northern shore of the great southern land, he came amazingly close.

While de Queirós's divine mission scattered, his masters fared little better. In 1578, the status quo was rocked when King Sebastian I of Portugal died without heir, prompting a Spanish invasion in 1580 that saw King Phillip III's father unite both thrones. Spain gained Portugal's colonial possessions, and those increasingly vulnerable and far-flung Portuguese colonies gained Spain's multitude of enemies. Over the next two decades, England, France and the newly independent Dutch Republic snapped at the Iberian Union's heels in North America, South America, India, Africa and South East Asia – tearing off chunks of land, piece by bloody piece.

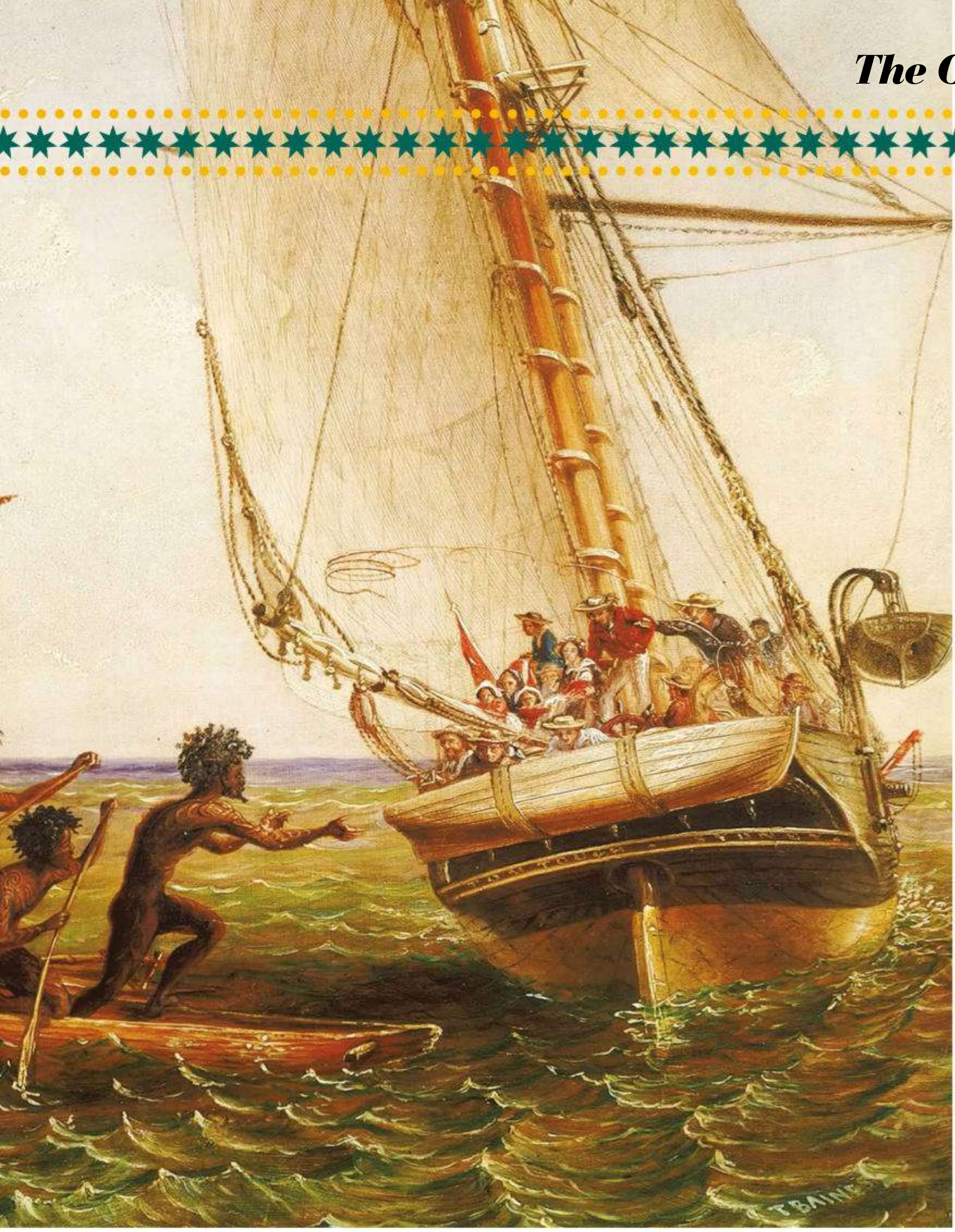
In 1605, the Duyfken ('little dove'), its eight cannons blackened by Spice Islands skirmishes with the Portuguese, sailed from Java, newly fallen under Dutch influence, to explore the coast of New Guinea on behalf of the Dutch East India Company (VOC). Captained by Willem Janszoon, he became the first recorded European to set foot on Australia in 1606, thinking it was the continuing western coastline of New Guinea (missing the Torres Strait altogether – and it would take Cook, over a century later, to conclusively prove that Australia was a separate landmass). Finding it swampy and inhospitable, the crew of the gently named Duyfken proved themselves anything but, as amicable early encounters with the Aboriginal Australians turned sour when the Dutch abducted some of their women, prompting a cycle of attack and reprisal that forced them back to sea.

Janszoon was followed in 1616 by Dirk Hartog on the Eendracht's maiden voyage. Becoming separated from a VOC fleet crossing the Cape of Good Hope, he took advantage of the 'Roaring Forties' – powerful westerly winds that could cut a journey shorter by months – and whether by accident or design, he shot across the Indian Ocean far more southerly than was usually safe. The Eendracht reached Western Australia and left a flattened pewter dinner plate as its testimony. Thanks largely to VOC's enthusiasm for speed over lives – the company insisted its captains take advantage of the Roaring Forties, regardless of the danger – the Dutch caught sight of Australia many times over the next few decades, gradually shading in more and more of their maps, with many more of them left smashed against the rocks. The oldest of these wrecks was the Tryall, sunk in 1622 en route to Java from Plymouth and captained by John Brooke. The Tryall represented an achievement by which Cook could scarcely be inspired – the first Englishman to clap eyes on the great southern land was also the first European to sink within her treacherous currents.

While recklessness had catapulted Europeans onto antipodean shores, the meticulous Abel Tasman was a different breed. He had the ship's carpenter swim ashore to plant the flag, rather than risk a ship on unknown rocks, to claim Van Diemen's Land in 1642 (now known as Tasmania) in honour of Anthony van Diemen, the governor-general of the Dutch East Indies. Van Diemen had earned that privilege – under his stewardship, the


Aboriginal seafarers used dugout canoes

THE ROARING FORTIES WINDS MADE JOURNEYS SOUTH FASTER FOR EXPLORERS



Dutch East Indies became a centre for frantic map-making and territorial expansion, and Tasman was entirely on message with his employer's way of doing things. With so much intricate detail captured through drawings, diaries and maps on his voyage to Tasmania, and then across the Tasman Sea to become the first European to reach New Zealand, Cook used his writings over a century later as a reference, landing in Poverty Bay to claim it for Britain.

Tasman returned to Australia once more in 1644, mapping the northern shores and choosing the name that would supplant Terra Australis – New Holland. It would survive both Cook and the colony of New South Wales, and only 180 years after Tasman first uttered the name 'New Holland' would it be officially replaced by 'Australia'.

If Abel Tasman was the example that James Cook followed, then William Dampier was the (somewhat dubious) legend that Cook aspired to.

A British buccaneer from humble beginnings, he had circumnavigated the globe a record-breaking three times, writing the bestselling *A New Voyage Round The World* in 1697 and rescuing the man who would become Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe. His adventures impressed the British Admiralty so much that in 1699 – 29 years before Cook's birth – Dampier was given the helm of the HMS Roebuck, and a commission to explore New Holland and uncover the eastern coast that would later fall to Cook. Dampier collected an unprecedented catalogue of Australian plants and wildlife before the rotting Roebuck began to take on water. After some slipshod repairs allowed them to return home – the east coast mission abandoned – the unlikely naturalist was later marooned on Ascension Island.

Court-martialled for losing the vessel in his charge and deemed "unfit to command any of HM's ships, Dampier promptly returned to the life of a sanctioned Jack Sparrow, but not before releasing *A Voyage To New Holland* in 1699, rich with detail of flora, fauna, rocks and even prevailing winds.

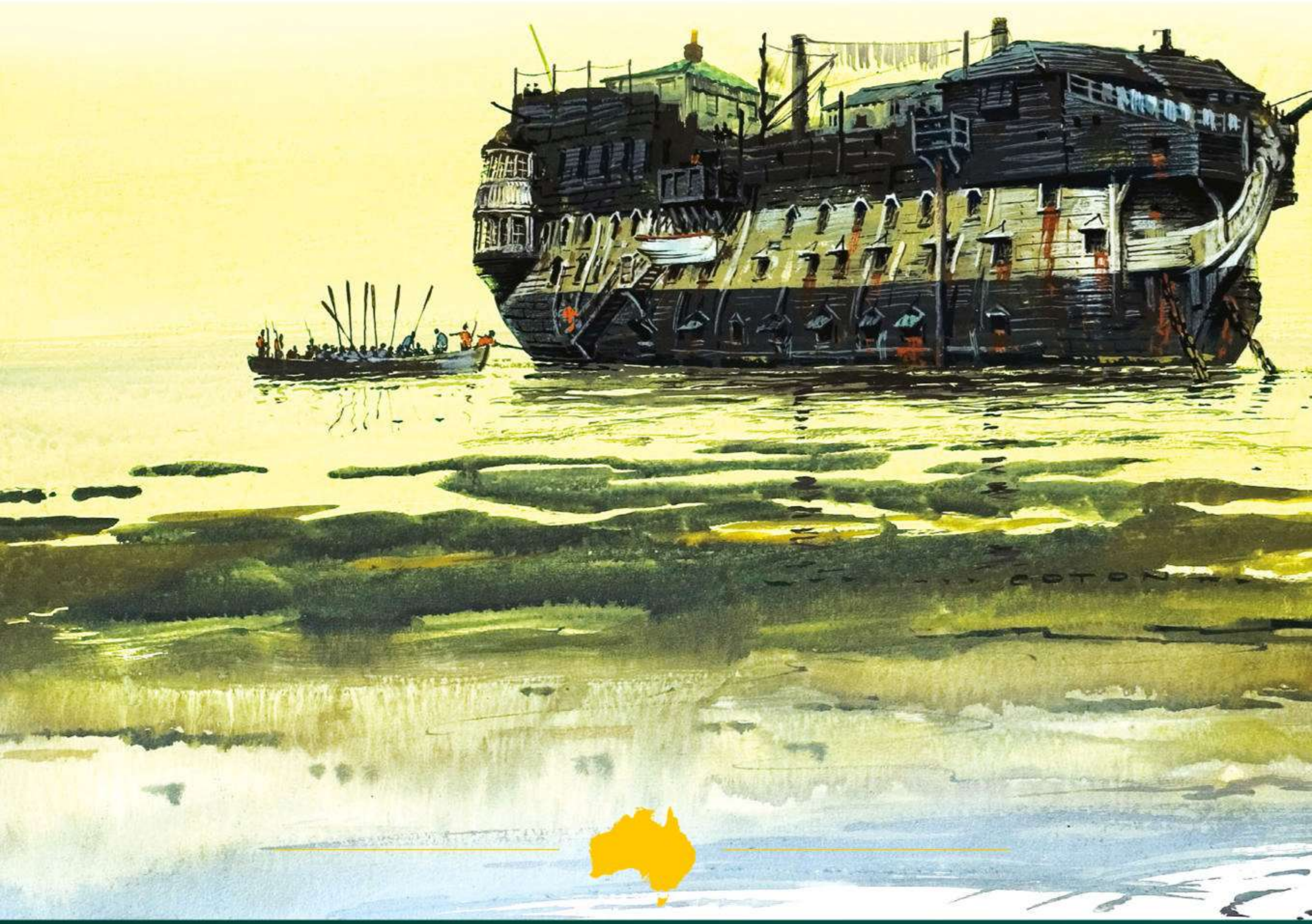
Though Dampier had failed in his most strategically important goal – and lost his ship doing so – his voyage pre-empted a paradigm shift, not just in British thinking but in French too. However, this took nearly another century to materialise, and it would again be politics and profits that saw navigators, botanists, explorer and East Indiamen dispatched with flags for planting. The colonial horse-trading and nation-swapping that closed the Seven Years' War in 1763 saw Spain, France and Britain ease into a stand-off far messier and more convoluted than Portugal and Spain in the 15th and 16th centuries, and once more the booming empires had nowhere left to expand but into the unknown.

Naval officers – who, like Cook, had proven their worth in the far-flung theatres of the last war – were dispatched to the Pacific with increasing regularity by a conflict-scale navy with a peacetime surplus of ships, men, money and experience. In quick succession, the Admiralty sent Commodore John Byron in 1765 and then Captain Samuel Wallis in 1766 on the HMS Dolphin, and Captain Phillip Carteret on the HMS Swallow in 1766, and then Cook himself in 1769 – all spreading the red, white and blue across a swathe of Pacific islands, the promise of Terra Australis never far from their minds.

As James Cook and his predecessors raced south just as Tasman and Torres had done before them, their French counterparts at their heels, the map of Australia would continue to be shaded in inch by inch. Whether their sails were buffeted by economic, political or imperial forces as much as by the Roaring Forties, their achievements remain a triumph of reason and discovery. When Cook finally felt Australian sands crunch beneath his feet, it's true that he was building on older expeditions – the writings of Tasman, Dampier and, more recently, Wallis at his hand – as well as the ideas at its heart stretching back to Ancient Greece, but his discoveries would become the foundation for a colony, and eventually a nation.

It would be many more years before European settlers knew for a fact that the land Cook had claimed as New South Wales was connected to New Holland, and *wasn't* connected to Van Diemen's Land, just as it took Cook to prove that these scattered chunks of a much grander country weren't connected to New Zealand or New Guinea (thanks in part to the Spanish keeping Torres' voyage to themselves).

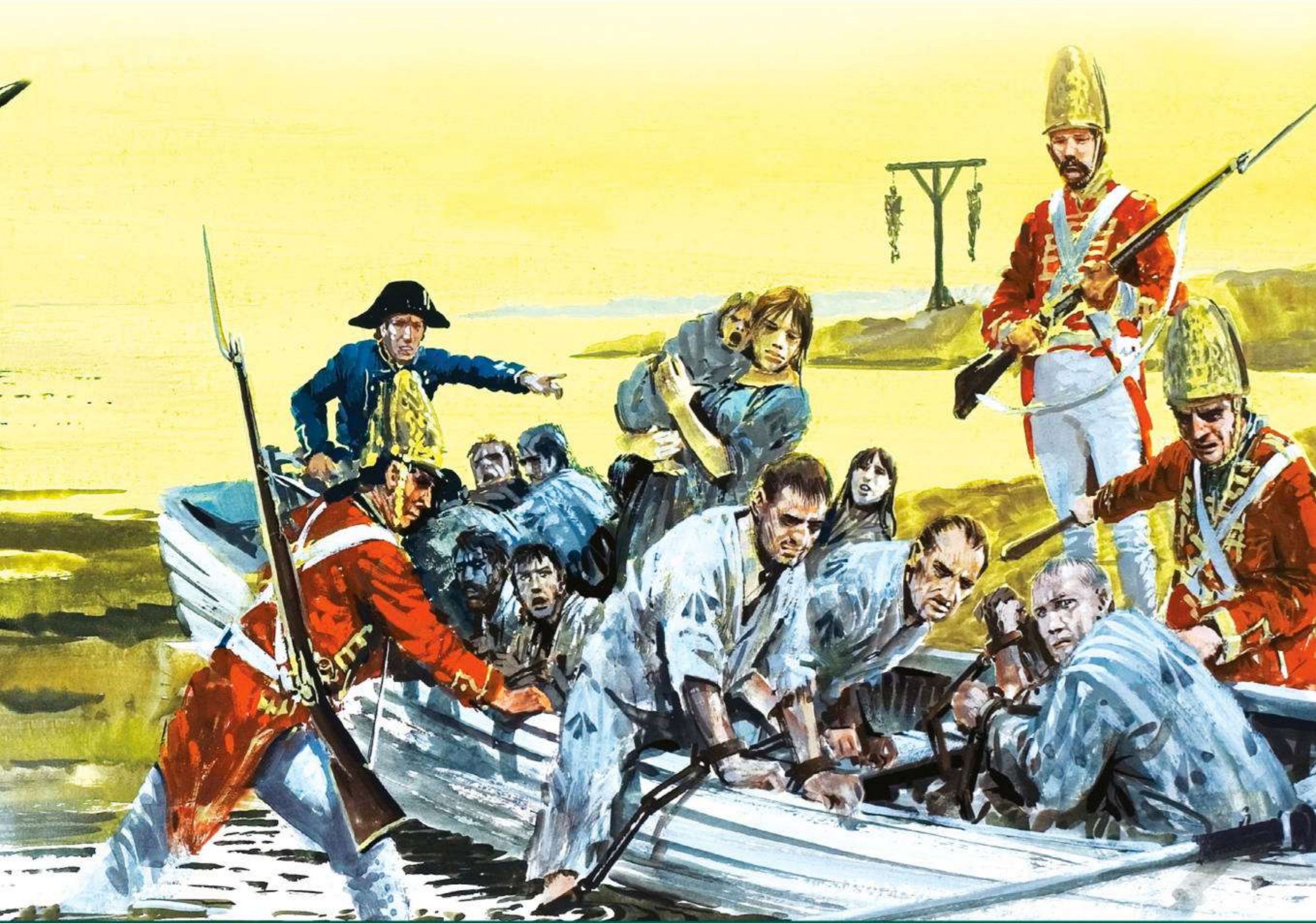
Their vessels cutting across unknown oceans and into alien horizons, these men – this cast of thinkers, seafarers, pirates and traders from across centuries – closed a chapter in Australia's long history, and for better and for worse a new one was about to begin.



AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PENAL COLONY

How punitive criminal sentences, a gruelling journey and years of backbreaking labour forged the modern-day land down under

Words by Ben Biggs



> “Britain […] simply looked to a vast wilderness brimming with opportunity on the far side of the world: Australia”

There wasn't much in the way of mercy for a common criminal in 18th-century Britain. You could be branded or whipped for a relatively minor offence and for repeat offenders, the hangman's noose awaited. The infrastructure of the criminal justice system was as outdated as the punishments it dished out, a relic of medieval times and unable to keep up with the burgeoning population and an exponential crime rate. A rudimentary police force was still over a century away, so with some help from the night's watch, victims of crime were expected to obtain an arrest warrant, gather a mob and then apprehend the criminal themselves. Once the accused was handed over to the authorities they were expected to pay the cost of prosecution, which was often beyond the means of the working class. As if that wasn't incentive enough to simply take it on the proverbial chin, if the victim pursued the criminal through court, they could face retaliation from members of the gang they belonged to. Unsurprisingly, a high number of crimes simply went unreported.

The courts themselves were also poorly equipped, with archaic legislation that allowed those cunning criminals that arrived at the court dock to easily slip through the fingers of the law. The biggest thorn in a magistrate's side was 'Benefit of Clergy', a provision by which first-time offenders could simply quote the first verse of Psalm 51, beginning: “Have mercy upon me, O God…” to effectively get themselves off the hook. This was a throwback to a time when it was deemed that only those of the cloth could read and know the Bible, and thus were beyond the jurisdiction of anything but a church court. Although many 18th-century criminals couldn't read, by rehearsing this verse they could easily avoid a brutal punishment altogether and walk away with their freedom and reputation intact.

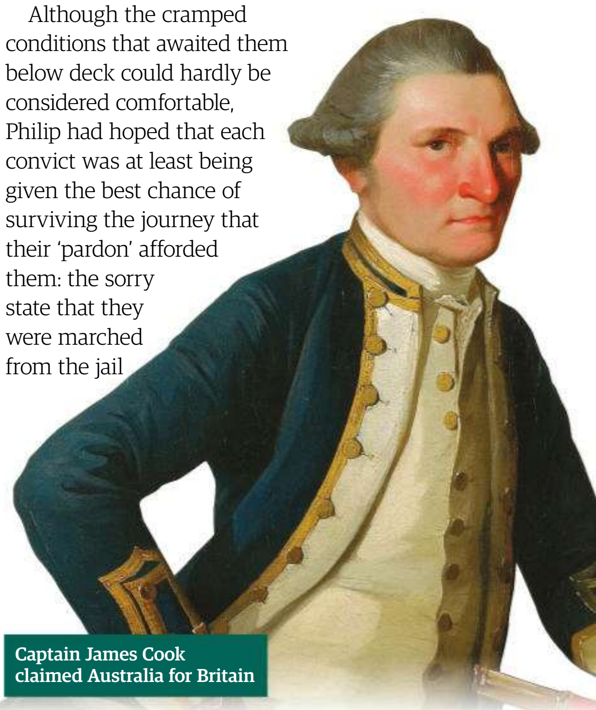
As a result, the crime rate rose in Britain while death sentences became an everyday tool in a judge's arsenal, used as a draconian way of reducing the number of criminals on the street as much as a deterrent. Even so, a state-sanctioned blood bath of hangings for the dozens of crimes that a criminal could receive capital punishment for was something the British government wanted to avoid. So, in 1718 and with the New World of America firmly in sight, the Transportation Act was put in effect.

Transportation was a legal way of sending convicted criminals abroad to labour in the new colonies. The act allowed for two categories of punishment for two different types of offence: for those that would normally receive 'Benefit of Clergy', the judge could hand out seven years of overseas labour instead of a branding or a whipping. Capital crimes could be repealed at the discretion of the judge and, if he was in a merciful mood, a death sentence could be reduced to a minimum 14-year transportation sentence. It solved the pressing issues of cheap labour in the new world, removed criminals from the streets and emptied jails; for the British government it seemed like the perfect solution. Thus Britain forged its new colonies on the blood and sweat of convicts. This was such a popular form of punishment that 50,000 people were transported to America from 1718 to 1786, and when the American Revolution broke out, making transportation to New England impossible, Britain didn't consider changing its policy but simply looked to a vast wilderness brimming with opportunity on the far side of the world: Australia.

The 'First Fleet', as it's now known, set sail for Australia on 13 May 1787 and consisted of 11 ships: two armed Royal Navy vessels, three supply ships and six criminal transports housing 736 convicts in total. The fleet's admiral was Arthur Phillip, a working-class military man who had ascended through the merchant navy from apprentice at 13, before giving up his civilian rank to join the Royal Navy as a seaman two years later. He was a self-taught navigator and excelled in other maritime disciplines, which gave him a distinct edge over his peers and allowed him to take charge of his own fleet as admiral aged 50. He was also a disciplined, far-sighted and pragmatic leader who believed slavery would only hinder the progress of the new colonies, yet wasn't afraid to use the hangman's noose to make an example of those convicts who broke the rules repeatedly.

Only a few of those aboard had been given transportation sentences for violent crimes that would otherwise have necessitated a death penalty. Among those guilty of lesser crimes were 70-year old Elizabeth Beckford, given seven years for stealing a wheel of cheese, 11-year old James Grace, transported for stealing ribbon, and nine-year old John Hudson, a chimney sweep also given a disproportionately harsh sentence for common larceny. Admiral Phillip had hoped for tradesmen to set up the new colony but not only was he dismayed by the largely unskilled rabble he was presented with, he was appalled at the treatment the courts had meted out to the prisoners while their fate was decided.

Although the cramped conditions that awaited them below deck could hardly be considered comfortable, Philip had hoped that each convict was at least being given the best chance of surviving the journey that their 'pardon' afforded them: the sorry state that they were marched from the jail

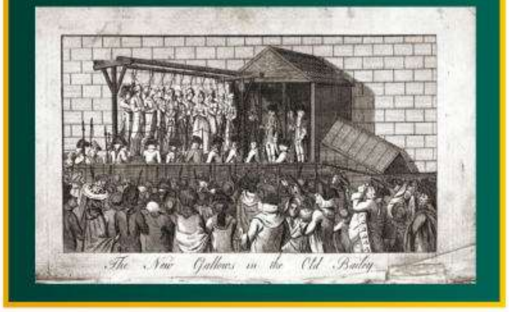


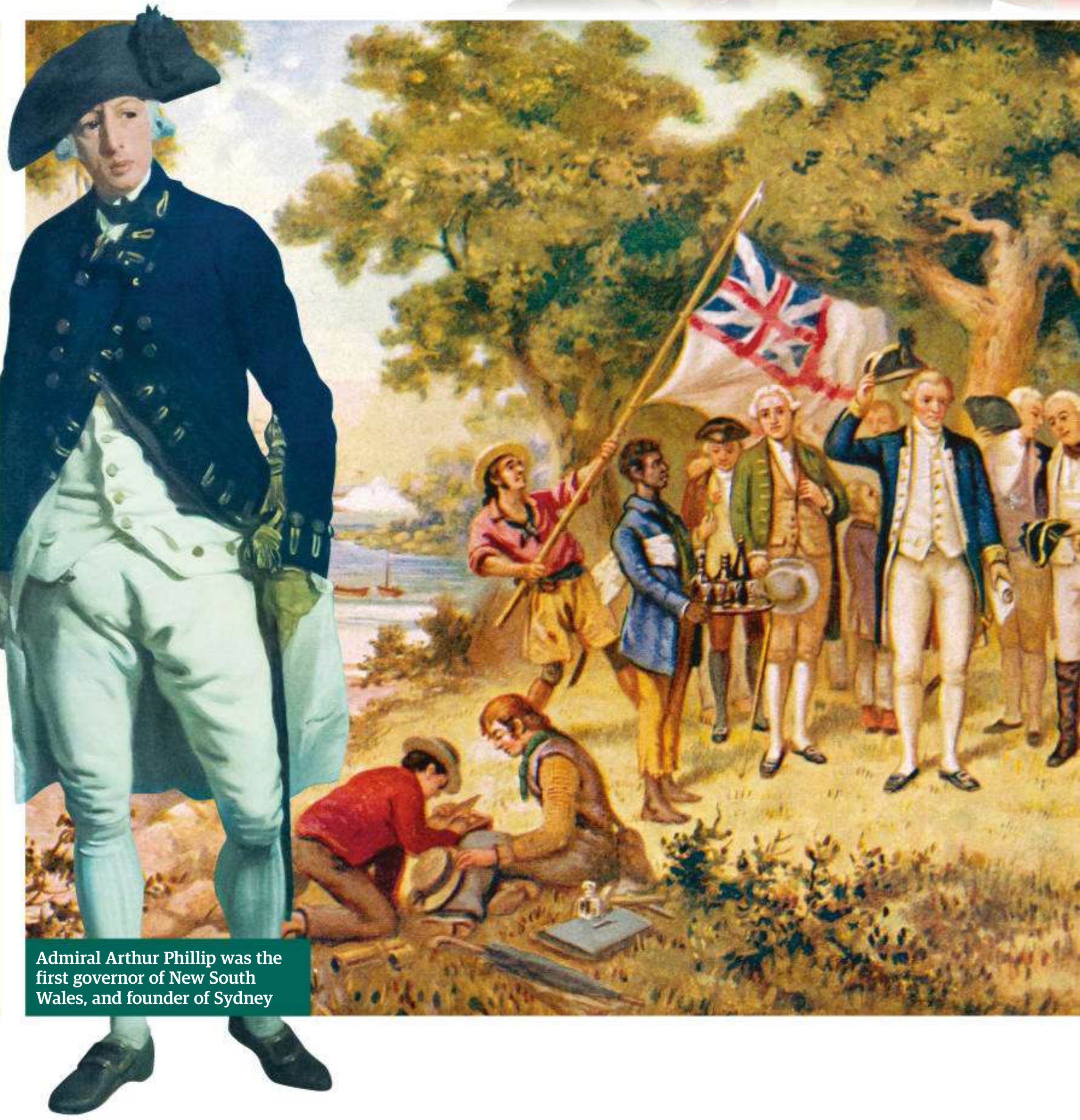
Captain James Cook claimed Australia for Britain

CRIME AND GRIME IN 18TH-CENTURY BRITAIN

People in 18th-century Britain used the term 'criminal' in much the same way we do today: someone who committed a crime and was taken to court was a 'criminal' and was referred to as such. It didn't matter if they were a starving waif stealing an apple from a grocer's stall for the first time, the branding didn't distinguish them from a highwayman, murderer or career house breaker. It was generally held that anyone who would stoop to commit a crime was already morally bankrupt and was starting a spiral down into a life of villainy, if they weren't there already there.

There was a real underclass of criminality that had developed as a result of a justice system that didn't believe in rehabilitation and simply flogged, branded, executed or gave hard labour to miscreants and hardened lawbreakers alike. In the filthy, crowded cities of 18th-century Britain and with no social security net short of the dreaded workhouses, certain types of criminal stuck together. Prostitutes, beggars, thieves, con men (or mountebanks, as they were known) and more, benefited from a hierarchy that was formed, from which a kind of 'master' criminal was drawn.


The New Gallows in the Old Bailey

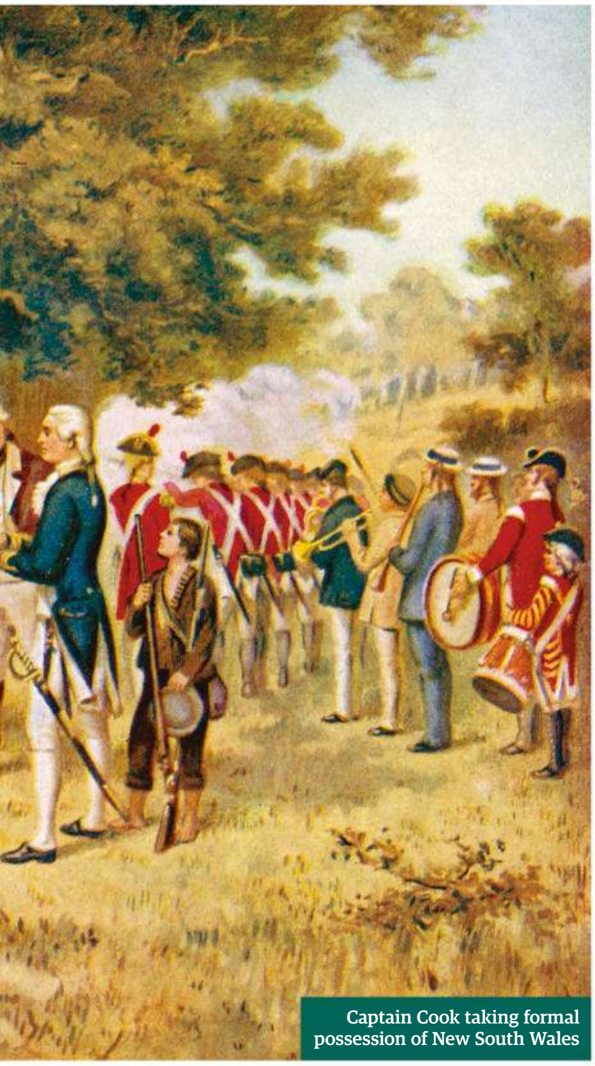


Admiral Arthur Phillip was the first governor of New South Wales, and founder of Sydney

“Regardless of crime, age, ethnicity or gender, nearly all were malnourished, lice-infested and wearing rags”

in suggested otherwise. Regardless of crime, age, ethnicity or gender, nearly all were malnourished, lice-infested and wearing barely enough in the way of moth-eaten rags to hide their modesty. It enraged Philip that not only was the government denying him the skilled labour he would need to effectively establish a colony, but the rag-tag dregs of Britain's gaols had been half-broken before they had even left the shore. Nevertheless, he was neither going to be delayed nor disheartened, and so Philip saw the First Fleet through what would have been a distinctly unpleasant eight-month journey to a harbour 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) south of modern-day Sydney, stopping off at South America and South Africa along the way.

The last of the fleet landed at its final destination in Botany Bay relatively intact, on 20 January 1788. None of the ships had been lost on the journey and only 48 of the would-be colonists had died, a remarkably low statistic for the time. However, the new colony was nowhere near the paradise that explorer Captain James Cook, who charted the region on his 1772-1775 voyage, had painted. Cook arrived during the month of May and had named the natural harbour for the diversity of its vegetation, also noting its abundance of fish. But at the height of the Australian summer when the First Fleet arrived, the land was withered and the stingrays Cook had talked about were nowhere to be seen. The shallow bay also prevented the ships from dropping anchor close to the shoreline, so conditions for a fledgling colony on shore were far from ideal. The water was mostly brackish, the bay's topography would make it difficult to defend and the soil was poor with slim potential for growing crops from the grain they had brought with them. At least there were plenty of strong trees and the natives, an aboriginal clan called Cadigal, weren't hostile. But the fear of attack from aboriginals or foreign powers looking to usurp his claim to the land led Arthur Phillip to search elsewhere. He took a small party of three boats north the next day to discover a much more suitable, sheltered site for a colony with fertile soil and fresh water. Cook had called it Port Jackson but hadn't entered the harbour, so Phillip took the liberty of renaming it Sydney.



Captain Cook taking formal possession of New South Wales

It wasn't just the dregs of the prisons that had been upended into the First Fleet. One particular thorn in Phillip's side was the prickly Major Robert Ross. The Scottish marine had a reputation for having a hair-trigger temper, but it wasn't until Phillip was trying to set up the colony that he discovered just how insubordinate he could be. He refused to allow marines under his command to supervise convicts or to sit in court on convict trials, he was lazy, quarrelled with his officers and commanders alike and generally made Phillip's job of governing the colony more difficult. Phillip had already instructed his lieutenant, David Collins, to take a small party of seven free men and 15 convicts to Norfolk Island, a small island 1,412 kilometres (877 miles) directly east of Australia. They arrived a month after the settlement of Sydney and over the course of a year, more convicts were sent to help with what appeared to be a promising industry.

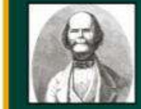
Perhaps to avoid outright conflict as much as the need for a military presence on the island, Phillip decided to send the surly major over to Norfolk with a retinue of marines in 1790. It was not a successful relocation. Ross continued to argue with Lieutenant Governor Collins and his own men. He declared martial law for four months after the 540-ton HMS Sirius attempting to bring over a company of marines escorting convicts was wrecked on a coral reef. No lives were lost but the ship and all its provisions perished, which only piled the pressure on the islanders. In the space

WHO WORE THE FIRST ‘POMS’?

THE FERRYMAN

Crime: Stealing sugar

Jamaican-born Billy Blue was sentenced to seven years' transportation in 1796 that saw him leave for Botany Bay in 1800. He finished his sentence and became a ferryman across Sydney Harbour, married in 1805 and had six children.



THE WILD WHITE MAN

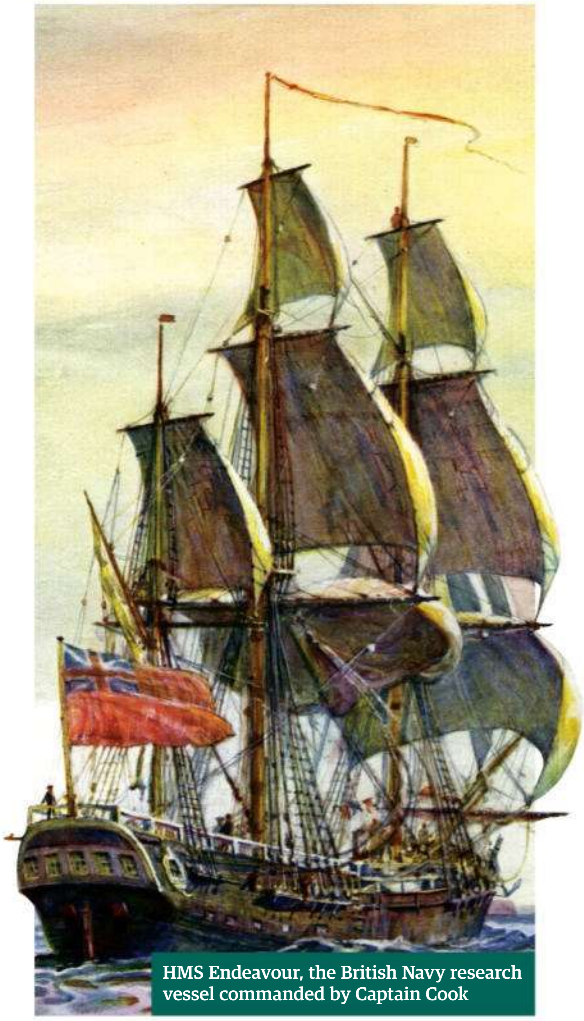
Crime: Receiving stolen goods

Former soldier William Buckley managed to escape incarceration when he arrived in Australia. Buckley was ‘adopted’ by a friendly tribe of Aboriginals, the Wathaurung, who believed he was the returned spirit of a recently deceased tribesman, and became a respected member of their community.

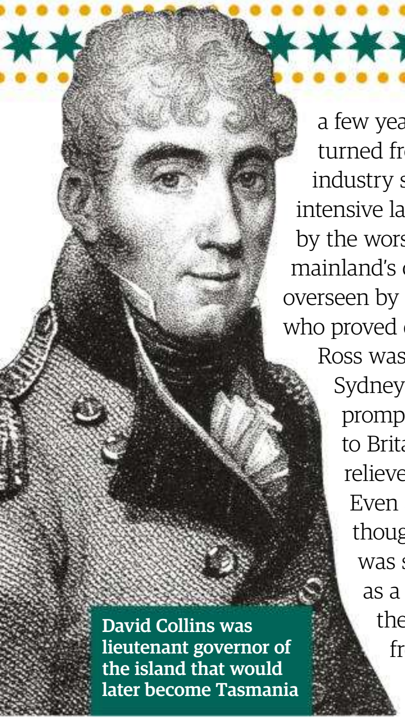
MOTHER AUSTRALIA

Crime: Stealing a frock

Mary Ann Wade was the youngest convict sent aboard the second fleet at 11 years old, after her death sentence was commuted to transportation. On arrival she was taken to Norfolk Island where she later had two children. Her descendants today number in the tens of thousands.



HMS Endeavour, the British Navy research vessel commanded by Captain Cook



David Collins was lieutenant governor of the island that would later become Tasmania

a few years, Norfolk had turned from a small cottage industry settlement to an intensive labour camp worked by the worst of the Australian mainland's criminals and overseen by military officers who proved difficult to manage. Ross was sent back to Sydney in 1791 and was promptly deported back to Britain after being relieved of his command. Even after Ross left though, Norfolk Island was still used primarily as a prison island for the worst of the worst from the Australian mainland. The treatment of its convicts under the command of Governor Darling became even more brutal.

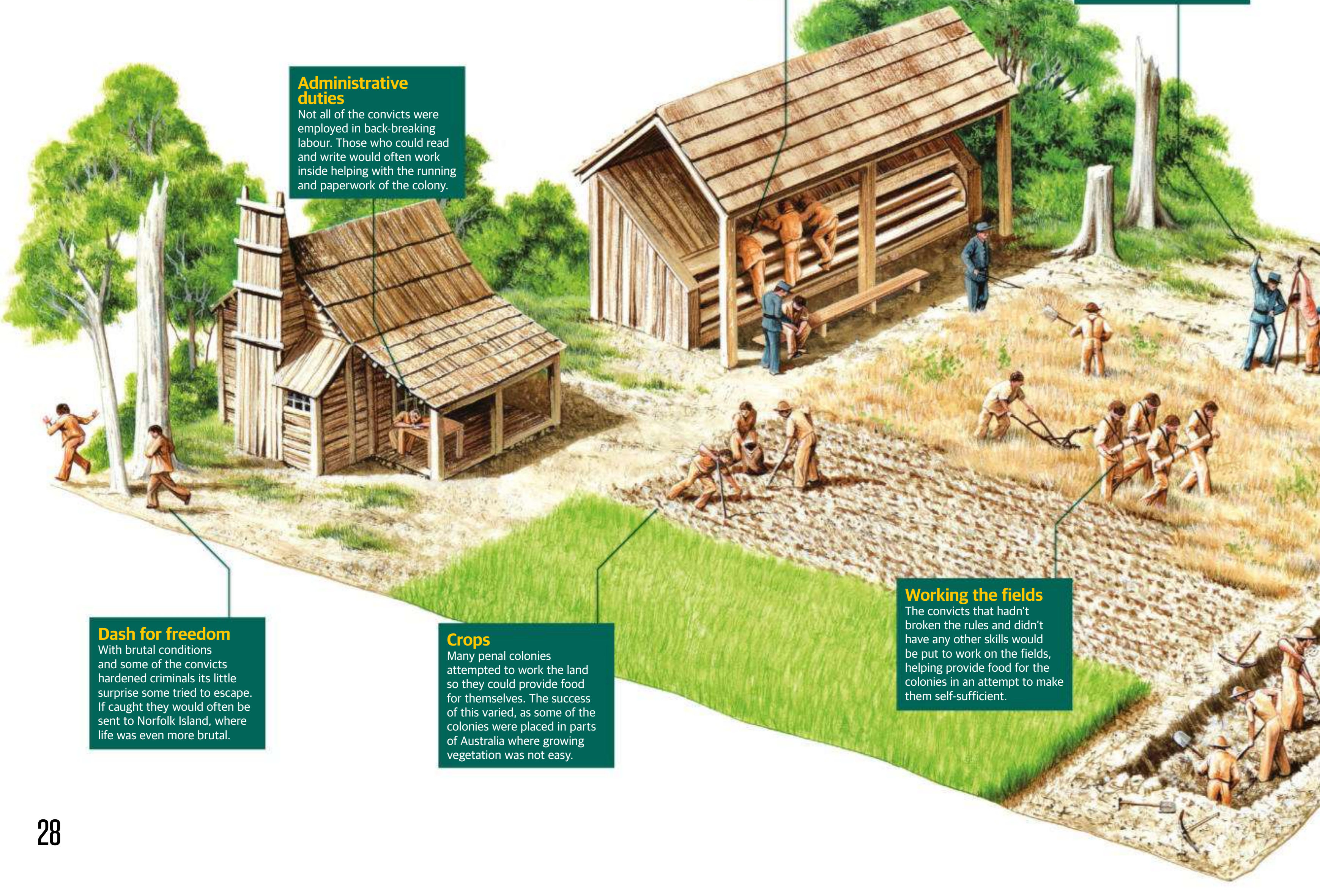
The system that Arthur Phillip set up aimed to extract the best use of every convict. A few cursory details like their place of birth, religion and physical marks like scars or tattoos were noted to identify them, before they were asked about their previous trade and level of literacy to establish their vocation. Extra labourers, providing they worked well, were always handy but anyone with a trade was valuable. As the penal colonies of Botany Bay and Sydney spread into Australia's rural regions, the trades of a Western civilisation became sought after. Now, not just carpenters, smiths and farmers were in demand, but housemaids, nannies, porters and other servants were required for the free migrants seeking their fortune in a new country. Regardless of their background, every convict was assigned a trade: the educated were freed from menial labour and got off lightly with the job of helping with the island's administration, while the job of some wives and mothers was simply to help populate the colonies.

For those tasked with building the houses and infrastructure in the first few decades of the colonies, life was a shade tougher. Leg irons were widely used and the convicts' overseers wielded their whips liberally. Back-breaking work building roads and bridges could last anything from 14 to 18 hours a day, seven days a week. Though the aim

> "Back-breaking work building roads and bridges could last anything from 14 to 18 hours a day, seven days a week"

A DAY IN A CONVICT'S LIFE

Life for the first POMs was hard and the punishments dished out could be brutal



The treadmill
Another form of punishment, some of the larger treadmills needed 25 convicts to operate them properly and had 24 steps. The average punishment was to complete 160 revolutions of the windmill.

A good flogging
Those convicts who didn't behave were subjected to different punishments. A common one was lashes with the cat o'nine tails, which would leave a convict's back in a very painful state.

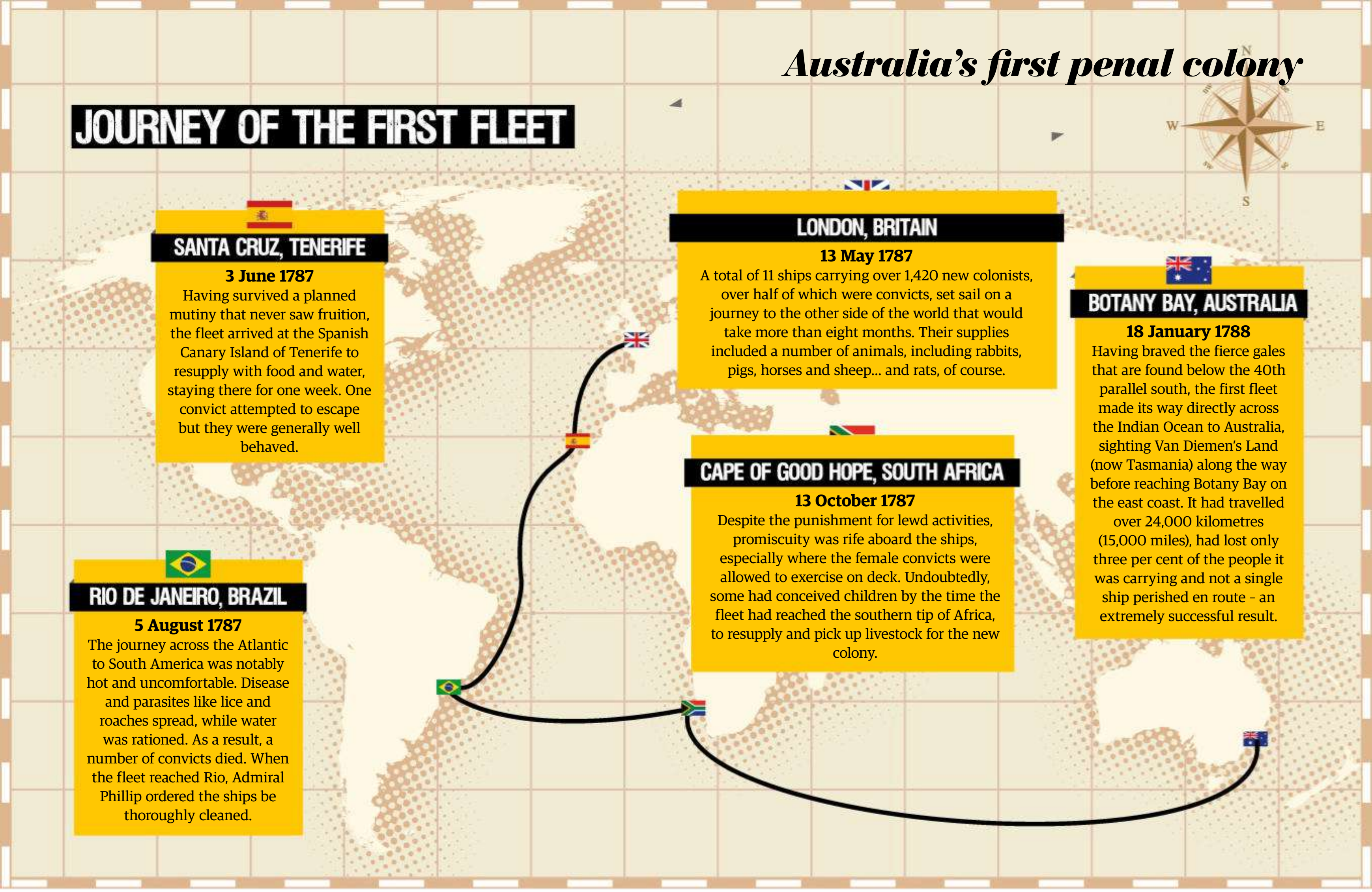
Administrative duties
Not all of the convicts were employed in back-breaking labour. Those who could read and write would often work inside helping with the running and paperwork of the colony.

Dash for freedom
With brutal conditions and some of the convicts hardened criminals its little surprise some tried to escape. If caught they would often be sent to Norfolk Island, where life was even more brutal.

Crops
Many penal colonies attempted to work the land so they could provide food for themselves. The success of this varied, as some of the colonies were placed in parts of Australia where growing vegetation was not easy.

Working the fields
The convicts that hadn't broken the rules and didn't have any other skills would be put to work on the fields, helping provide food for the colonies in an attempt to make them self-sufficient.

JOURNEY OF THE FIRST FLEET



LONDON, BRITAIN

13 May 1787

A total of 11 ships carrying over 1,420 new colonists, over half of which were convicts, set sail on a journey to the other side of the world that would take more than eight months. Their supplies included a number of animals, including rabbits, pigs, horses and sheep… and rats, of course.

SANTA CRUZ, TENERIFE

3 June 1787

Having survived a planned mutiny that never saw fruition, the fleet arrived at the Spanish Canary Island of Tenerife to resupply with food and water, staying there for one week. One convict attempted to escape but they were generally well behaved.

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

5 August 1787

The journey across the Atlantic to South America was notably hot and uncomfortable. Disease and parasites like lice and roaches spread, while water was rationed. As a result, a number of convicts died. When the fleet reached Rio, Admiral Phillip ordered the ships be thoroughly cleaned.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, SOUTH AFRICA

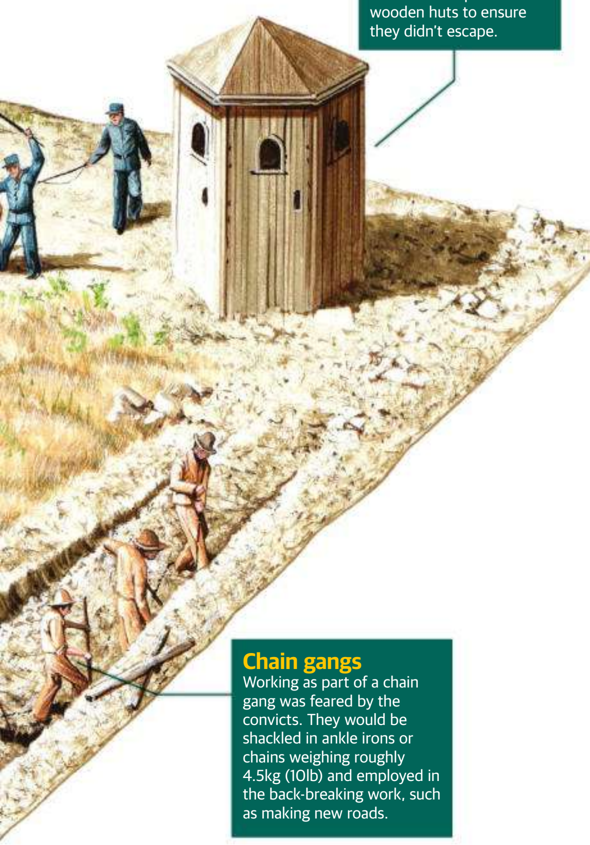
13 October 1787

Despite the punishment for lewd activities, promiscuity was rife aboard the ships, especially where the female convicts were allowed to exercise on deck. Undoubtedly, some had conceived children by the time the fleet had reached the southern tip of Africa, to resupply and pick up livestock for the new colony.

BOTANY BAY, AUSTRALIA

18 January 1788

Having braved the fierce gales that are found below the 40th parallel south, the first fleet made its way directly across the Indian Ocean to Australia, sighting Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) along the way before reaching Botany Bay on the east coast. It had travelled over 24,000 kilometres (15,000 miles), had lost only three per cent of the people it was carrying and not a single ship perished en route – an extremely successful result.



Watch hut

By day the convicts were supervised by a military guard and other overseers. At night they were locked up in small wooden huts to ensure they didn't escape.

Chain gangs

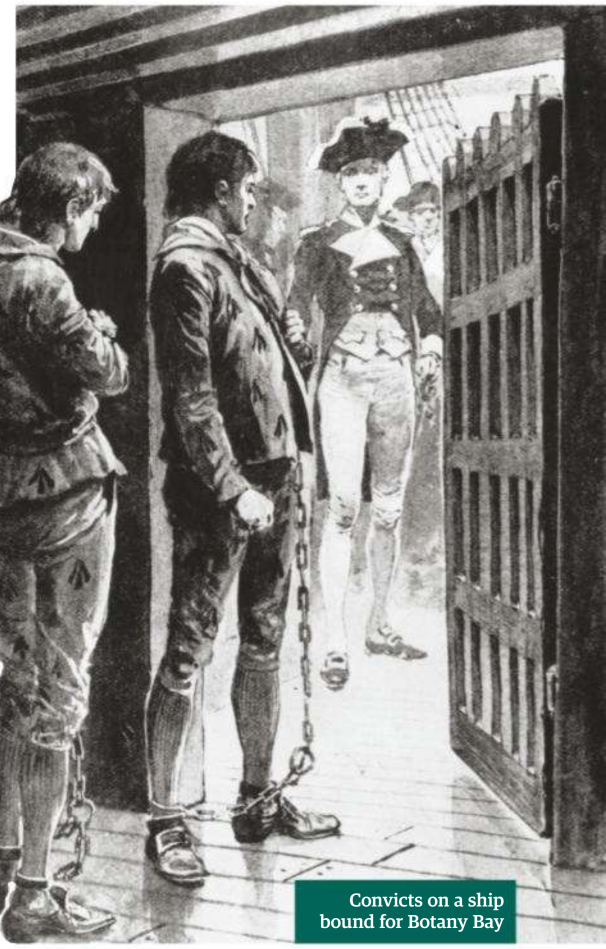
Working as part of a chain gang was feared by the convicts. They would be shackled in ankle irons or chains weighing roughly 4.5kg (10lb) and employed in the back-breaking work, such as making new roads.

– ostensibly at least – was to reform these convicts into new colonists by the end of their sentence and there was even a chance for them to earn their freedom for good behaviour, there was no doubt they were being punished for their crimes.

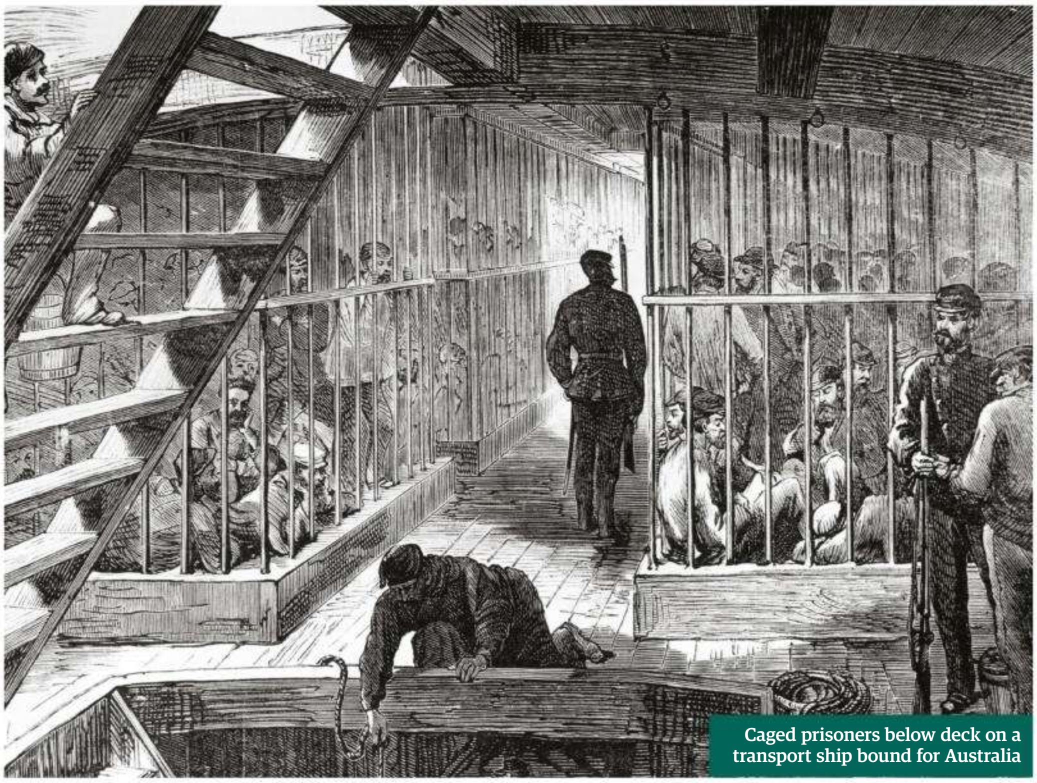
Those transported for more serious crimes could face the death penalty if they were caught escaping, or at the very least face even harder time as colonists on Norfolk Island. Neither did those servants who were assigned to the households of the free migrants have an easy time of it. They were at the mercy of their masters and vulnerable to abuse.

Convicts weren't completely without rights, though. The colonial government paid for their food and clothes, so if a convict's master wasn't feeding or clothing them properly, was giving them disproportionate physical punishment or not allowing them enough rest, the convict could have their complaint heard. If the defendant was found guilty, the convict could be reassigned to someone else and their former master or mistress could lose their right to have convicts work for them at all in the future.

The female transportees of Botany Bay and Port Jackson were treated separately from the men – the 120-strong convict roster on one of the six prison ships of the First Fleet was entirely female, for a start. When they arrived, they were sent to a prison called a 'female factory', where they laundered clothes, sewed and spun while they were awaiting assignment. Many of the women transported to



Convicts on a ship bound for Botany Bay



Caged prisoners below deck on a transport ship bound for Australia

> "Convicts had the opportunity to start again with a clean slate, to take advantage of the opportunities Australia offered"

Australia's first penal colony brought children with them or had given birth at some point during the eight-month voyage. Their babies stayed with them until they were weaned, at which point they were taken away and put into an orphanage, where they could be claimed back once the mother had earned her freedom.

While life was hard for everyone when the Botany Bay colony was established, it was undoubtedly a better fate than some of the convicts would have met back in Britain. Records show that the quality of a convict's food was much better in Australia than it would have been in Britain. For some, there were ripe opportunities abound in this new land, too. With Botany Bay and Port Jackson growing every year, free men and women began to migrate from Britain to seek their fortune and to take advantage of the cheap labour the penal colonies offered. If a convict behaved, adhered to the rules and served their time, they were free to go. They could buy their passage back to Britain if they wished, but most chose to stay and not just because of the high price of a ticket: the stigma of being an ex-con in Britain simply didn't exist in this new land. Convicts had the opportunity to start again with a clean slate, take advantage of the many opportunities that Australia offered a free, white European citizen and even climb the social ladder – something unthinkable back on British soil.

Over the following 50 years, public opinion would gradually turn against the Transportation Act as it became thought of as a particularly cruel form of punishment. In 1850, 17 years after slavery was finally abolished, transportation to the growing colonies in New South Wales was also abolished. But by then, hundreds of thousands of Europeans had settled in the new land, many of them changing their names and leaving a dark past behind them, setting the future course of this new Australian nation.

GRIM PUNISHMENTS

FLOGGING

Incredibly, legislation had to be brought about to limit the number of lashings a convict could receive in one sitting to 'only' 50. A flogging could be given for the slightest hint of insubordination and the sadistic guards revelled in goading the convicts into committing an offence.

SOLITARY

Solitary confinement of around two weeks at a time would be awarded for the slightest of transgressions, carried out in a filthy cell 2.4m tall x 2.4m wide (8 x 8ft) called the 'nunnery'. Despite being called 'solitary', as many as a dozen people would be crammed into the cell and left there. In the hot climate, this hellish term must have felt like an eternity.

STARVATION RATIONS

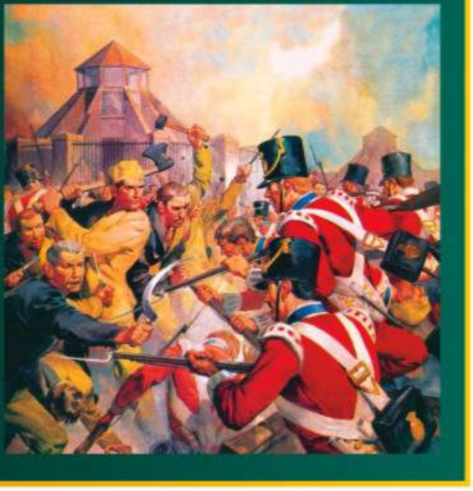
While the mainland penal colony was relatively well fed, Norfolk's islanders could look forward to distinctly less luxurious fare. Governor Darling intended the colony to be as close a punishment to the death sentence. Giving just enough stale bread and water to misbehaving colonists to keep them alive and upright was one way of ensuring this policy.

NORFOLK ISLAND: PRISON WITHIN A PRISON

Three weeks before Admiral Phillip had set sail for Australia, he had received instruction from the government to set a colony up on Norfolk Island to prevent any foreign power, such as France, from claiming it for themselves. At around 35 square kilometres (13.5 square miles), it was easily large enough to settle on. It was an abundant source of pine wood and flax appeared to grow particularly well on the island too. Both of these resources were strategically important: the tall spruce pines for main masts and flax because it could be used to make sails.

Early on, as the island brimmed with settlers, it rapidly became apparent that no one had the required trade skills necessary to weave the flax. In addition, despite the stature of the trees on the island, the timber was too fragile to endure the rigours of a ship's main mast. The Norfolk colonists attempted to farm the land but with crops either failing in the briny wind or eaten by caterpillars and Polynesian rats, the islanders were on the verge of starvation.

Norfolk Island continued to be dogged by misfortune and bad management, and was abandoned in 1814 due to its high running costs and remote location. A second penal colony was established there ten years later under Governor Darling's incredibly punitive regime, becoming the place convicts were sent for committing further crimes or trying to escape their mainland duties. Conditions on Norfolk Island were so horrible that rebellion was almost inevitable and in 1834 an uprising involving hundreds of convicts ended after seven hours and was followed by sadistic reprisals.



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COLONIAL CONFLICTS OF AUSTRALIA

When European settlers claimed land already occupied by the Indigenous populations of Australia, conflict was inevitable

Words by Ben Gazur

Almost as soon as Lieutenant James Cook landed in what would become Australia, there was conflict. Attempting a landing in Botany Bay, Cook and his crew encountered "several of the Natives and a few hutts; Men, Women, and Children on the South Shore abreast of the Ship, to which place I went in the Boats in hopes of speaking with them." These peaceful intentions would soon be shattered.

First contact

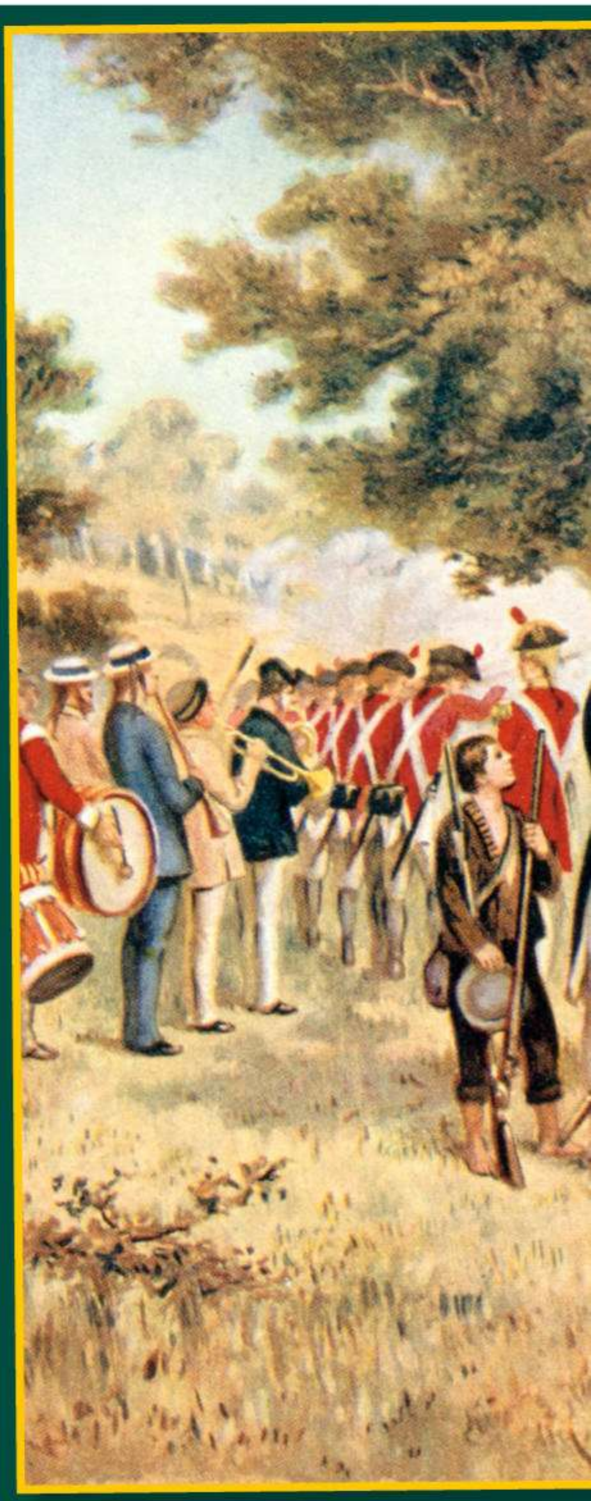
It was 29 April 1770 when James Cook entered what he called Stingray Bay, due to the number of stingrays in the water, but better known to us as Botany Bay. He took several boats from his ship to land near the village he had spotted. The meeting did not go as planned. "As we approached the Shore they all made off, except 2 Men, who seem'd resolved to oppose our landing. As soon as I saw this I order'd the boats to lay upon their Oars, in order to speak to them; but this was to little purpose, for neither us nor Tupia [a Tahitian navigator] could understand one word they said."

Cook attempted to placate the men. "We then threw them some nails, beads, etc., a shore, which they took up, and seem'd not ill pleased with, in so much that I thought that they beckon'd to us to come ashore." In this he was mistaken. "As soon as we put the boat in they again came to oppose us, upon which I fir'd a musquet between the 2, which had no other Effect than to make them retire back, where bundles of their darts lay, and one of them took up a stone and threw at us, which caused my firing a Second Musquet, load with small Shott; and altho' some of the shott struck the man, yet it had no other effect."

This violence would be echoed throughout the early history of Australia. It may be even more tragic due to a misunderstanding between the Europeans and the Indigenous peoples. The young artist Sydney Parkinson, who was present at the first contact in Botany Bay, recorded in his diary that the Indigenous men shouted "warra warra wai". He interpreted this as meaning "go away".

However, modern members of the Dharawal people, descendants of those people Cook met, suggest that these words mean "You're all dead." Tradition has it that those who first saw Cook's ship thought it was a low-lying cloud due to its white sails. Since the spirits of the dead were thought to travel in clouds, the Indigenous people of the area might have considered Cook and his crew as ghosts. They were protecting their country from interloping ghouls.

But when Cook claimed the Eastern Portion of Australia for the British Crown, a clash of cultures on a larger scale became inevitable.



Terra Nullius

When Cook had explored the coasts of Australia, he had seen nothing that suggested permanent settlement to the European mind. There were no lands being tilled and farmed. The Indigenous people had no written laws or claims to where they lived. As far as most Europeans were concerned, Australia was simply Terra Nullius – Nobody's Land.

If Australia was uncultivated and unused by the Indigenous peoples, then the British government felt justified in simply taking it for

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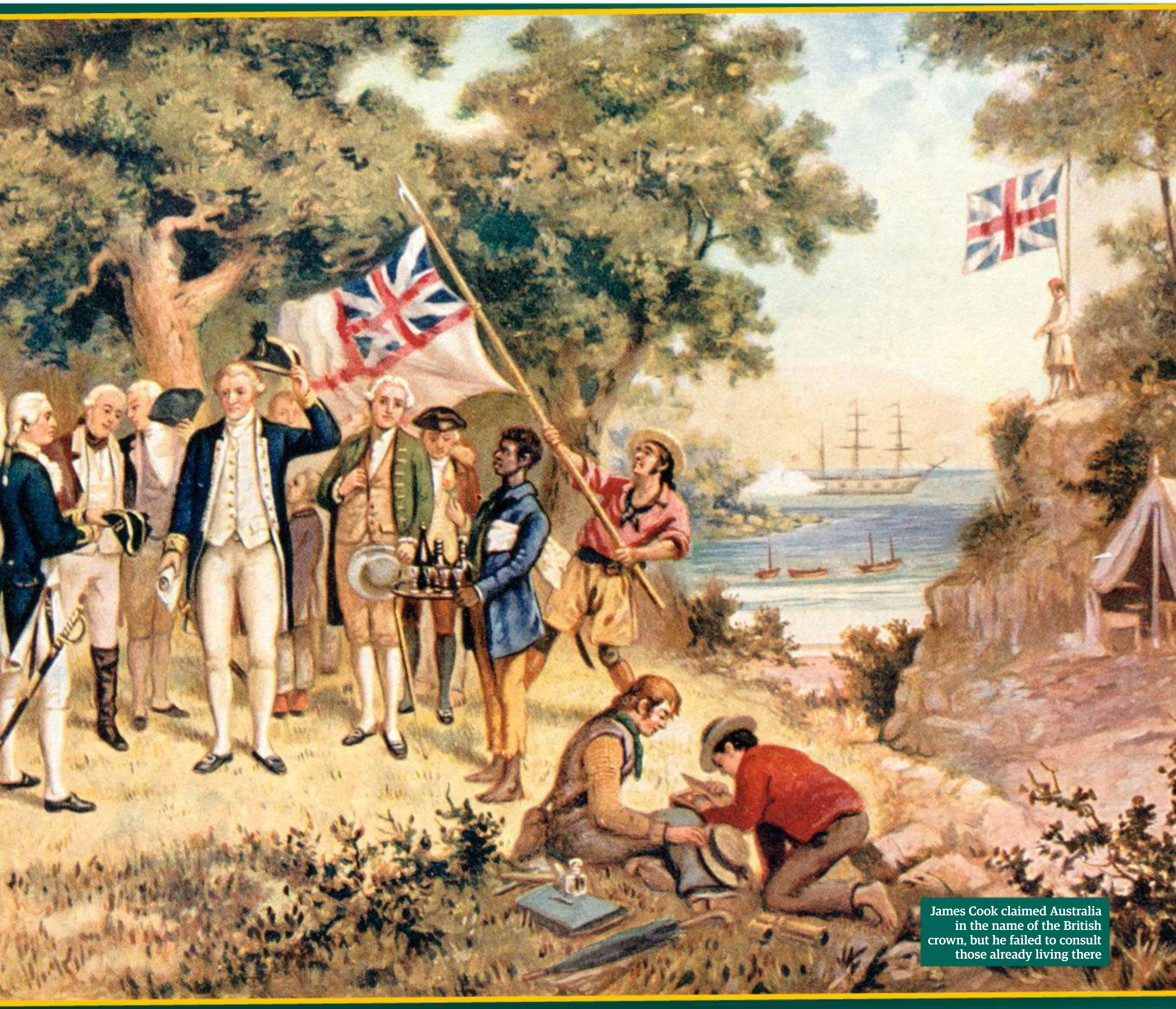


James Cook claimed Australia in the name of the British crown, but he failed to consult those already living there

their own purposes. Of course the problem was that the use of the land by Indigenous Australians, which had been going on for 60,000 years, looked nothing like European models of living. Not recognising Indigenous peoples' rights to the land, the British government decided to colonise the territory in 1786. Not only would this provide the British with a safe port in the Pacific, but it also gave them somewhere to send convicts following the loss of the American colonies.

The First Fleet of settlers and convicts, under Governor Arthur Phillip, arrived at Port Jackson in 1788 - the colony they planted there would grow to become the city of Sydney. The Indigenous people of the area were not asked their opinions on having new neighbours. While the British came well equipped to defend their new land, the Indigenous Australians had only numbers on their side… but not for long.

The arrival of the British coincided with a drastic decrease of the population in New South Wales. It is unknown how many Indigenous people lived in Australia before the arrival of Europeans, but it is known that vast numbers of them were killed by smallpox and other diseases that were probably brought in by the settlers.

Governor Phillip was considered an enlightened man for the age, and he ordered his soldiers not to shoot Indigenous Australians unnecessarily. Yet when conflicts arose between the settlers and the Indigenous Australians, his attempt to close the gap between the groups involved kidnapping a native man named Arabanoo. As Phillip wrote in a letter back to Britain: "It was absolutely necessary that we should attain their language, or teach them ours that the means of redress might be pointed out to them, if they are injured, and to reconcile them by showing the many advantages they would enjoy by mixing with us."

Arabanoo was taken prisoner and handcuffed. He was chained and roped and forced to learn English. While many of the European settlers were pleased with "how little of the savage was found in his manner", Arabanoo never did manage to serve as an intermediary between the two cultures. After just six months of living among the British, he died of smallpox.

When two of the convicts in the colony were murdered while outside the colony, Phillip took a force of soldiers out to investigate. They were surrounded by 200 Indigenous men with weapons but managed to avoid a battle. Despite Phillip's desire for amity, convicts continued to be killed, though even the authorities of the colony did not entirely blame the Indigenous people. One lawyer stated that "every misfortune of the kind might fairly be attributed, not to the disposition of the natives, but to the obstinacy of their visitors". Convicts were known to steal weapons and other items from Indigenous people to take as souvenirs.

First conflicts

Misunderstandings between the two groups continued. In September 1790, Governor Phillip was meeting with a group of Indigenous people beside a stranded whale in Manly Cove when one of the warriors mistook his actions as an attack. A spear was hurled at the governor and pierced him from collarbone to spine. The governor ordered that his troops not retaliate and, somehow, he made a complete recovery once the spear had been removed.

The first true conflict between colonists and Indigenous people came in December 1790 when Governor Phillip's gamekeeper, John McIntyre, was struck with a spear; he was badly wounded and soon died. While the attack seemed unprovoked, there were some who thought McIntyre guilty of killing several locals. The man who had struck him was called

MANY CONFLICTS WERE CAUSED BY THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE COLONISTS, NOT ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS

STUDENT ACTION FOR ABORIGINES

In the 1960s there began to be protests in favour of giving full rights and respect to the Indigenous peoples of Australia

Pemulwuy, a man of the Bidjigal people. Governor Phillip, perhaps soured by his own spearing, sent out a group of marines to capture Pemulwuy and "to infuse an universal terror" into the locals.

Pemulway and his followers attacked several British settlements. These raids saw farm animals killed and crops put to the torch. By 1801 the new governor, Philip King, was exasperated by Pemulwuy's antics. He offered a reward for his head. Pemulwuy was shot. His head was taken, preserved in alcohol, and sent back to England.

The Frontier Wars

Pemulwuy's resistance to European encroachment on traditional tribal lands was just the first of many skirmishes and wars in Australia that became known as the Frontier Wars. His own son, Tedbury, led raids on farms and captured livestock. As the British advanced up the Hawkesbury River and settled more farmland, the Indigenous people already living there resisted. Governor King described how the border of British territory was a "line of blood".

Between 1794 and 1816, the Hawkesbury and Nebean Wars raged. Tens of thousands of acres of land were parceled out to settlers; if Indigenous groups resisted, armed forces were sent to drive them away. These fights over land and resources saw both sides stealing from the other.

The Aboriginal Australians were unable to gather food from British land as they had since time out of mind so they took to raiding farms. When Governor King spoke to three Dharug men in 1803, he asked them why there was hostility between their people and his.

"On questioning the cause of their disagreement with the new settlers they very ingenuously answered that they did not like to be driven from the few places that were left on the banks of the river, where alone they could procure food; that they had gone down the river as the white men took possession of the banks; if they went across men's grounds the settlers fired upon them and were angry; that if they could retain some places on the lower part of the river they should be satisfied and would not trouble the white men."

It is estimated that in the Frontier Wars of Australia, lasting from first contact to as late as 1934, at least 40,000 Indigenous Australians were killed. This includes those shot in armed conflict, but also those who slain in massacres. In contrast, just 2,000 settlers are thought to have died.

There were clear differences between the forces involved that meant the Indigenous peoples usually came off worse in these conflicts. The British forces carried firearms while the Indigenous Australians hardly ever did. Aboriginal fighters tried to adapt their tactics, waiting to hurl

WINDRADYNE AND THE BATHURST WAR

First contact between the Wiradjuri people of New South Wales with European settlers was peaceful. A policy of fast expansion into their territory, however, soured the relationship.

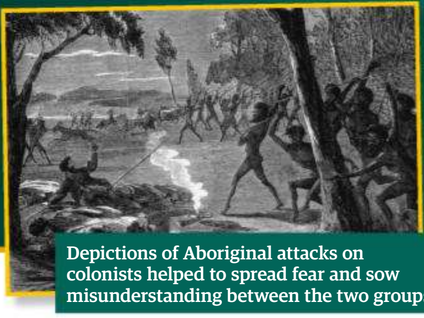
In 1822, several European farms were attacked by the Wiradjuri and farmers were injured. Convicts sent to work on the land were particularly vulnerable to attack. A young Wiradjuri man named Windradyne was soon identified as the leader of the hostile Indigenous people.

The conflicts that followed were known as the Bathurst War. A force of soldiers arrested Windradyne and he spent a month in prison. When some Wiradjuri took potatoes from a field, a posse pursued and shot several of them. Windradyne led the men who would revenge this attack.

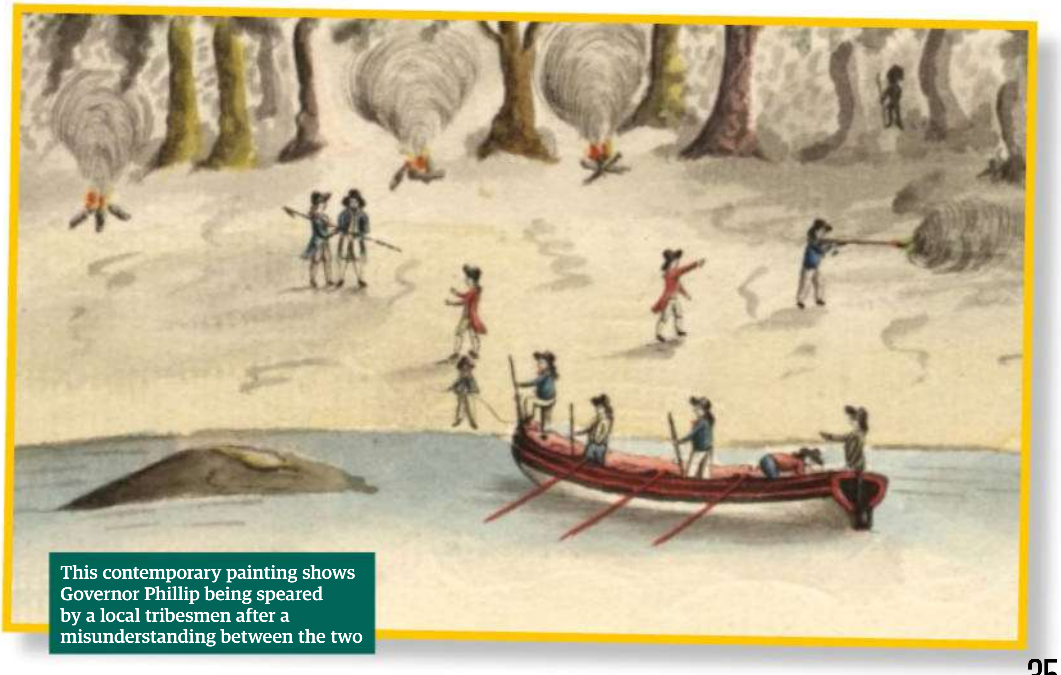
Windradyne led his warriors on hit and run attacks against settlers, farms and their livestock. Governor Brisbane declared martial law and summoned more soldiers to the area. Several violent attacks on Indigenous populations occurred, of which most of the victims were women and children. A paper at the time described how "Bathurst and its surrounding vicinity is engaged in an exterminating war".

With many Wiradjuri surrendering, Windradyne led a delegation to the governor, wearing a straw hat on which was written "Peace". Windradyne was pardoned for his role in the strife.

Chartists swear their allegiance to the Eureka Flag at Bakery Hill in 1954 in this watercolour painting, which now belongs to the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery.



Depictions of Aboriginal attacks on colonists helped to spread fear and sow misunderstanding between the two groups



This contemporary painting shows Governor Phillip being speared by a local tribesmen after a misunderstanding between the two their spears until their opponents were reloading, but these usually proved insufficient against the organised British soldiers and their firepower.

However, some Europeans did acknowledge the harm being done to the native peoples of Australia. In 1837, Francis Tuckfield, a Wesleyan Missionary, said: "The Government is fast disposing of the land occupied by the natives from time immemorial. In addition to which settlers under the sanction of government may establish themselves in any part of this extensive territory and since the introduction of the numerous flocks and herds… a serious loss has been sustained by the natives without an equivalent being rendered. Their territory is not only invaded, but their game is driven back, their marnong and other valuable roots are eaten by the white man's sheep and their deprivation, abuse and miseries are daily increasing."

Despite the relatively few successful attacks by Indigenous people, many European settlers did live in fear of being raided. Unfortunately this led to many massacres, often carried out by individual settlers rather than organised groups.

Native Police forces were formed of Aboriginal men under the control of white officers to aid in the policing of the frontiers

"After the massacres of Indigenous people, it was rare for a white person to be arrested and face trial, and even rarer for them to be convicted"

One massacre at Kangaroo Creek in 1847 occurred when Thomas Coutts distributed poisoned flour to local Indigenous people. A total of 23 people succumbed to the poison and many more were injured. Coutts was never convicted.

From 1837, units of 'Native Police' were formed, usually consisting of groups of Aboriginal men under the command of a white officer. These forces were used at the frontier to police areas that were difficult to reach. The Indigenous men often had better tracking abilities than the white police and were useful in finding outlaws. They were also used against other Indigenous peoples to "disperse" them – often taking the form of extrajudicial killings. The Native Police were sent to areas far from their homes, meaning they were usually not being used against their own people and families.

At the East Ballina massacre, Native Police and white troopers were sent out in response to a murder. The Aboriginal suspects in the crime were said to have fled towards a camp used by the Nyangbal East Ballina clan of the Bundjalung Nation, so the police surrounded it during the night. While 300 Indigenous people slept, the police opened fire, killing at least 30 of them. More were injured. The oral traditions of the clan say that many people were driven off a cliff to their death. No one was ever brought to trial for their part in the massacre.

Legal oppression

Unfortunately, that was par for the course. After massacres of Indigenous people, it was rare for a white person to be arrested and face trial, and even rarer for them to be convicted. There were, however, more direct ways in which the law discriminated against people simply called "Aborigines" by the colonists.

The Aborigines Act of 1905, for instance, was "an Act to make provision for the better protection and care of the Aboriginal inhabitants of Western Australia". In reality, it infantilised them by creating the position of Chief Protector of Aborigines. Among other things, this official had the right to remove children from their parents,

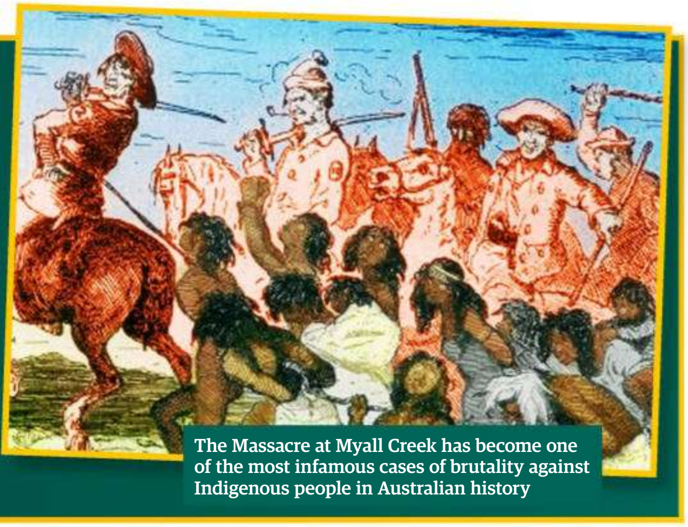
THE MYALL CREEK MASSACRE

Not all cases of violence against Indigenous people went unpunished. In 1838, a group of around 35 people from the Wirraayaraay people were camping near a livestock station. They had been invited by one of the stockmen on the farm to shelter there to avoid being attacked by other settlers who were known to be targeting Indigenous Australians.

On 10 June, 12 men, including the one who had invited them to stay on the land, tied up the group of women and children while the men were away. The Indigenous people were led away and cut down with swords. 28 people were killed.

When the massacre was eventually reported, 11 of the suspects were arrested and put on trial. At the first trial, all 11 were found not guilty after a mere 20 minutes deliberation by the jury. However, new evidence was brought forward and a second trial was held. Nevertheless, the trial was so controversial that jurors had to be hauled in from the street so that it could take place.

Seven of the accused were found guilty and sentenced to death. They were hanged on 18 December 1838 – the first white men executed for violence against Indigenous Australians.


The Massacre at Myall Creek has become one of the most infamous cases of brutality against Indigenous people in Australian history

and was the legal guardian of "every aboriginal and half-caste child" to the age of 16 years. Any Indigenous woman who wanted to marry a white man had to get written permission from the Chief Protector. This law remained in effect until 1964.

Indigenous people could be banned from entering certain areas under this law. They had no real way of influencing policy as very few of them had the right to vote. It was only in 1965 that Queensland became the final state to allow Indigenous people to participate in elections. Discrimination and outright racism were still common in daily life.

The White Australia Policy was a series of proposals put forward by various groups to keep Australia free of immigrants. Apparently none saw the irony of them working under a slogan of "Australia for the Australians" while denying rights to those who had lived in Australia for thousands of years.

Perhaps the most lasting and devastating policies directed against Indigenous peoples were those that led to the Stolen Generations. A growing population of people with mixed white and Indigenous Australian heritage concerned some people in government. The Initial Conference of Commonwealth and State Aboriginal Authorities held in 1937 decided:

"This Conference believes that the destiny of the natives of Aboriginal origin, but not of the full blood, lies in their ultimate absorption by the people of the Commonwealth, and it therefore recommends that all efforts be directed to that end... The policy of the Commonwealth is to do everything possible to convert the half-caste into a white citizen."

It was thought by those at the conference that if everyone adopted a European outlook and followed European cultural norms, then a homogenous and harmonious Australian citizenry could be created. The policy of assimilation was created that would attempt to force all Indigenous peoples into this desired mould. The conference declared: "The policy of assimilation means in the view of all Australian governments that all Aborigines and part-Aborigines are expected eventually to attain the same manner of living as other Australians and to live as members of a single Australian community enjoying the same rights and privileges, accepting the same responsibilities, observing the same customs and influenced by the same beliefs, hopes and loyalties as other Australians."

In practice, the policy of assimilation led to horrors for the Indigenous peoples of Australia. Children, particularly those of mixed race, were often forcibly taken from their parents and raised in institutions. The desire of those in power was that these children would become "Australian". Because of the 1905 law, the parents of mixed race children were not their legal guardians. The state needed no authorisation to take children from their homes. It is estimated that at least 20,000 children were taken over a 60-year period, though the number may be higher.

Unsurprisingly, many children stolen in this way suffered severe trauma. The policy was born from the idea that Indigenous people were unfit parents, but recent research has revealed the children of the Stolen Generations suffered abuse in their new homes.

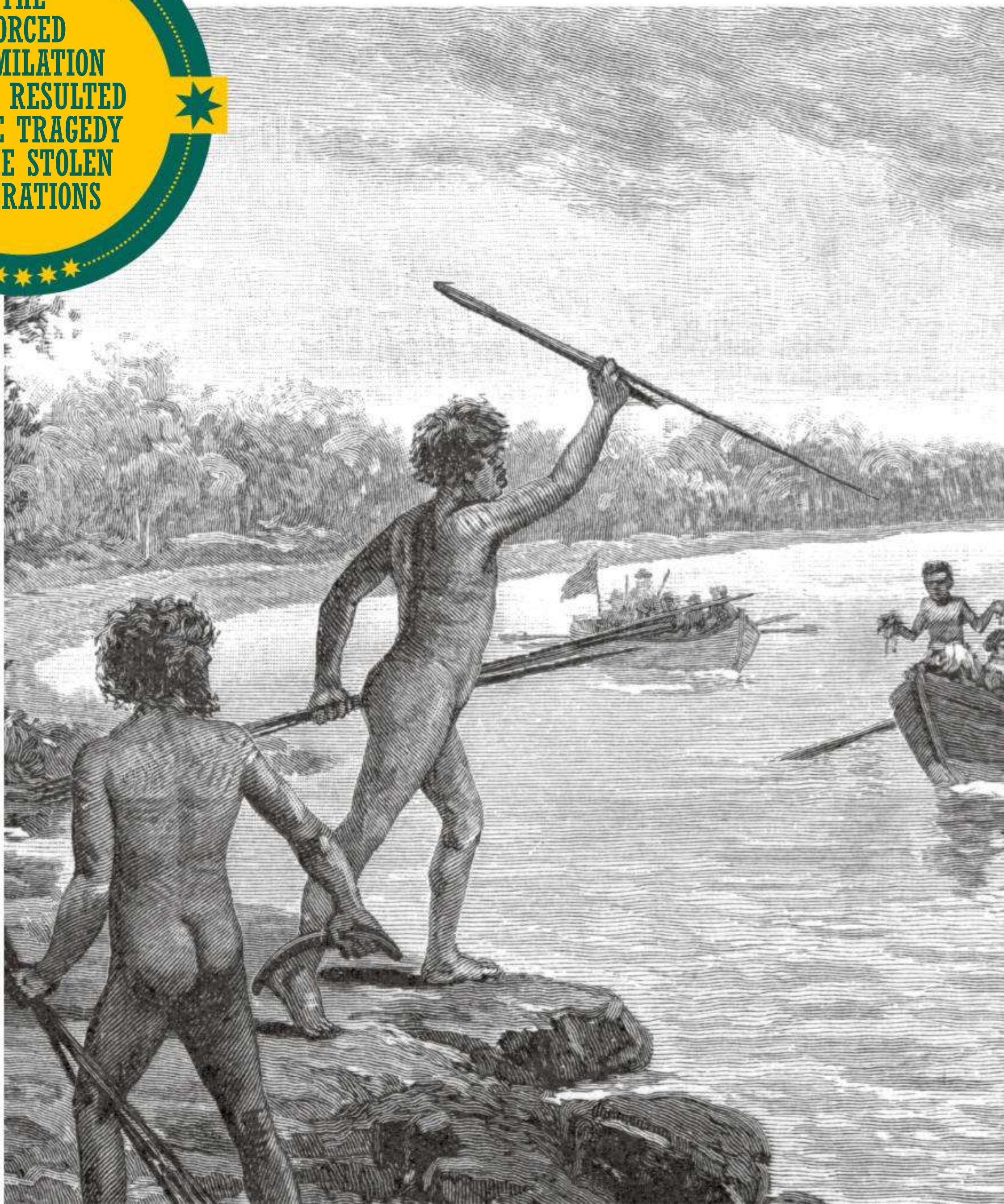
THE FORCED ASSIMILATION POLICY RESULTED IN THE TRAGEDY OF THE STOLEN GENERATIONS

Modern relations

In the 1960s, there was a reappraisal of Australian history. One historian described a "Great Australian Silence" at the heart of Australian historical studies. The role of Indigenous peoples had long been ignored. This reassessing of history has led to a new focus on uncovering the truth about Australia's colonisation.

Most of the legal barriers against Indigenous peoples in Australia have been removed in recent years. There are still many cases of both structural and personal racism that are experienced by Aboriginal Australians today. For instance, they are at a higher risk of dying in police custody. Moreover, in 2021, over half of Indigenous people surveyed revealed they had experienced at least one major form of discrimination in the past two years. Prejudice may have fallen in many areas but more remains to be done.

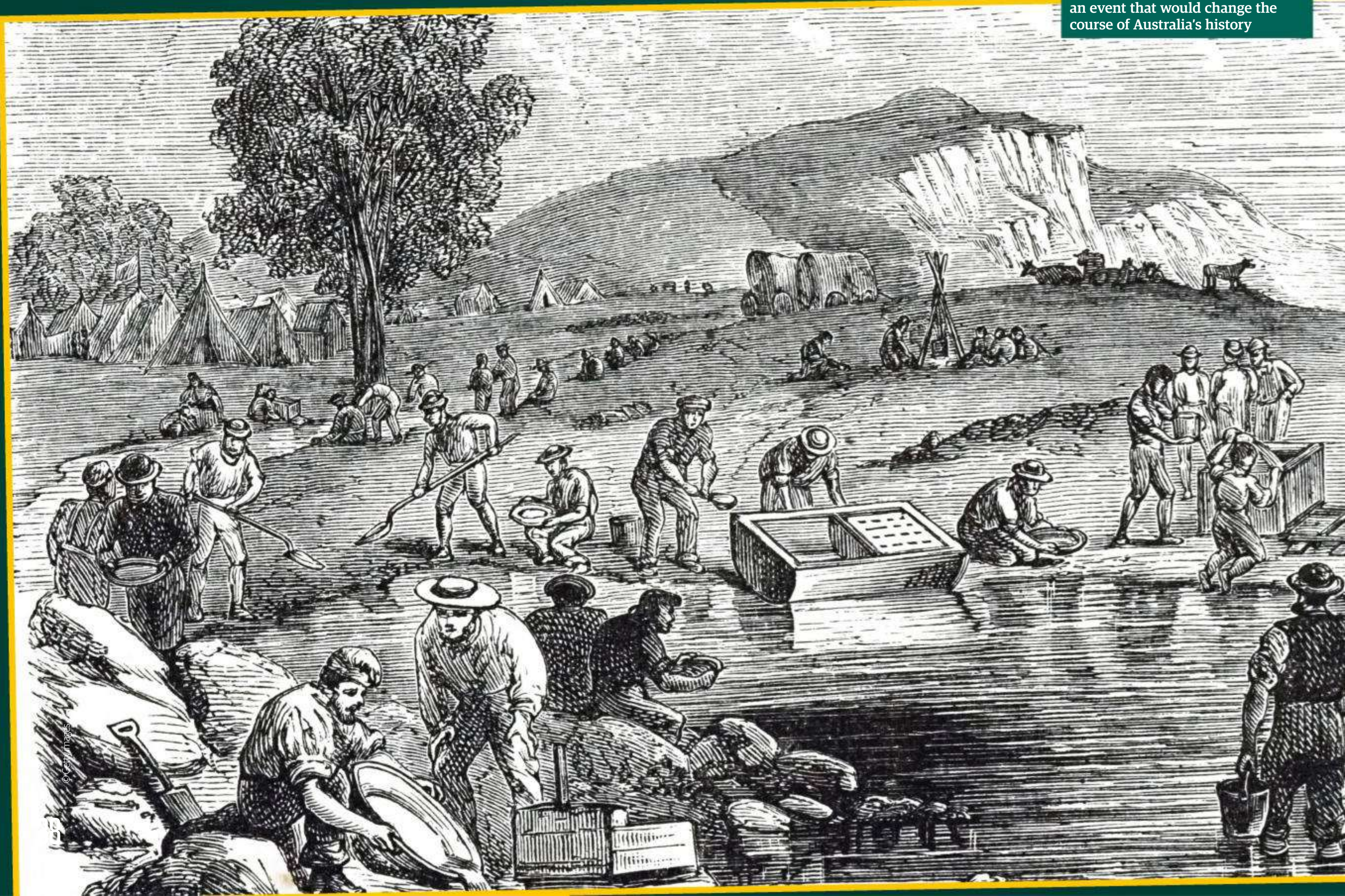
In 2008, Australia's then-prime minister, Kevin Rudd, made a formal apology to the Indigenous peoples of Australia in parliament. His speech particularly focused on the suffering that was experienced by the Stolen Generations, saying: "We apologise for the laws and policies of successive parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians."



THE AUSTRALIAN GOLD RUSH

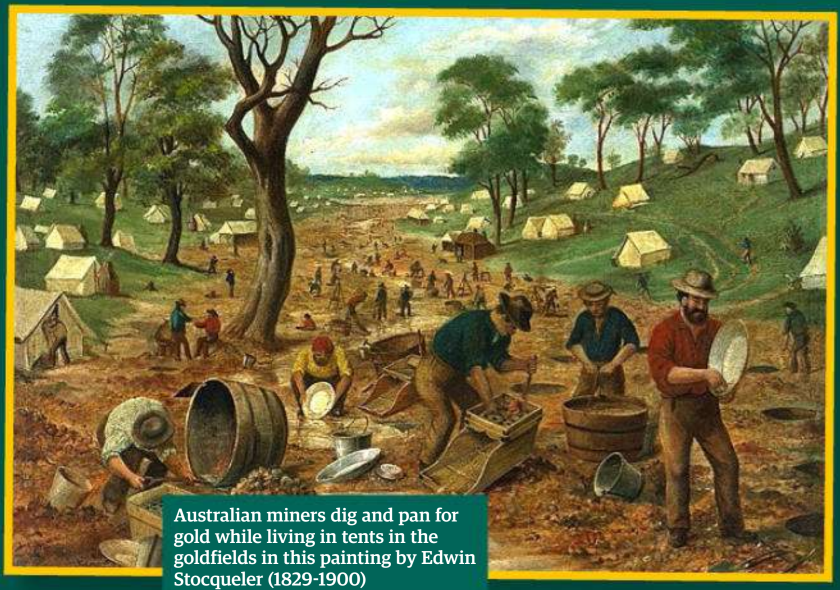
How the Australian gold rushes of the 19th century shaped the nation, from the first discovery to rebellion and political change…

Words by Poppy-Jay St. Palmer

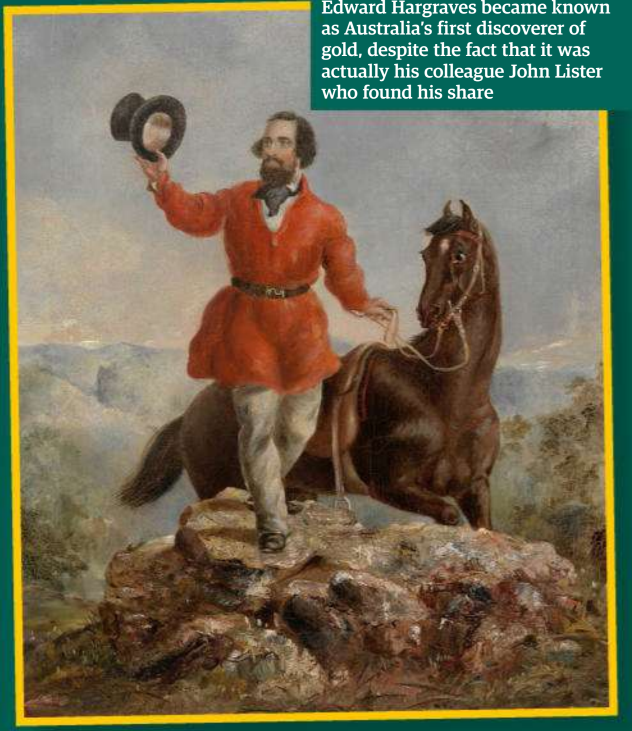


© Getty Images

Gold miners wash for gold during the New South Wales gold rush, an event that would change the course of Australia's history



Australian miners dig and pan for gold while living in tents in the goldfields in this painting by Edwin Stocqueler (1829-1900)



Edward Hargraves became known as Australia's first discoverer of gold, despite the fact that it was actually his colleague John Lister who found his share

The world stopped and listened in 1848 when James W Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Mill in California. The reaction to the news was unprecedented: around 300,000 people from all over the globe flocked to the Golden State in the hope of becoming rich beyond their wildest dreams. But despite Marshall's place in the history books, he wasn't the first to dig up New World gold. The precious metal had already been found Down Under in the Australian colonies.

Between 1841 and 1844, geologist Reverend William Branwhite Clarke happened upon a handful of small golden nuggets on the Coxs River in New South Wales. He showed his bounty to his friend Sir George Gipps, the then-governor of New South Wales, who replied: "Put it away, Mr Clarke, or we shall all have our throats cut!" Clarke's find was kept a secret – those back in Britain really didn't want a gold rush, as it was feared that gold fever in Australia would trigger a convict uprising. More gold was found and ignored by the government before the start of the California Gold Rush: explorer Paul de Strezlecki discovered gold in the Victorian Alps in 1839, and William Campbell found it on his sheep run in Strathloddon, Victoria in 1840. Farmers would frequently travel to Sydney with found gold, selling it in secret to avoid talk of gold being found in the colonies.

Once news got out that someone had struck gold in Sutter's Mill, around 6,000 Australians upped sticks and left to join the California Gold Rush. In a desperate attempt to keep people in the country, the new governor of New South Wales, Charles FitzRoy, convinced the British government to offer a reward of £10,000 to anyone that managed to unearth commercial quantities of gold. The first prospector to hit the headlines was Edward Hargraves. He had worked as a sheep farmer, a sea cucumber harvester, a sailor, an innkeeper, a shopkeeper, and a steamship agent before he turned 40, so a change of career wasn't out of the ordinary when he decided to give gold prospecting a go. Hargraves had been one of the 6,000 to head to California in 1849 but, after an unsuccessful start, he rushed back to New South Wales upon hearing of the reward. And he was willing to do whatever it took to stake his claim on it.

Hargraves was convinced that he'd strike it rich in Bathurst because the land looked just like that around the goldfields in California, but people scoffed at his self-confidence. Determined to have the last laugh, he enlisted the help of a local boy named John Lister, who had previously found gold in the area but hadn't bothered to tell anyone about it. The pair set up camp and started mining with the help of a piece of wooden equipment called a cradle that Hargraves had seen the prospectors use in California. On 12 February 1851, Hargraves' luck finally turned; he followed Lister to Lewis Ponds Creek and discovered his first gold. Ecstatic, he turned to his colleague and said: "This is a memorable day in the history of New South Wales. I shall be a baronet, you will be knighted, and my old horse will be stuffed, put in a glass-case, and sent to the British Museum."

Though Hargraves saw the discovery as a personal victory, he didn't find much himself after that. It was Lister and his friends William and James Tom who made all the big discoveries; the trio ended up finding four ounces of payable gold downstream from their initial find. Feeling greedy, Hargraves told them he had to leave on urgent business and asked them to give him all the gold they had found for safe keeping. He rushed to Sydney, presented the gold to the government, was proclaimed 'the sole and first discoverer' of payable gold, and kept the £10,000 reward for himself. Alongside the cash bonus, he was also rewarded with the position of Commissioner of Crown Lands for the gold districts and promised an annual pension of £250 when he retired. Hargraves spread news about the goldfields around the city via an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, even though Lister had warned against it.

Politicians, farmers and business people feared an Australian gold rush because they thought everyone would leave their jobs to go and chase a dream in the goldfields. They were right to be afraid, as that's exactly what happened. After

> "Hargraves spread news about the goldfields around the city, even though Lister had warned against it"

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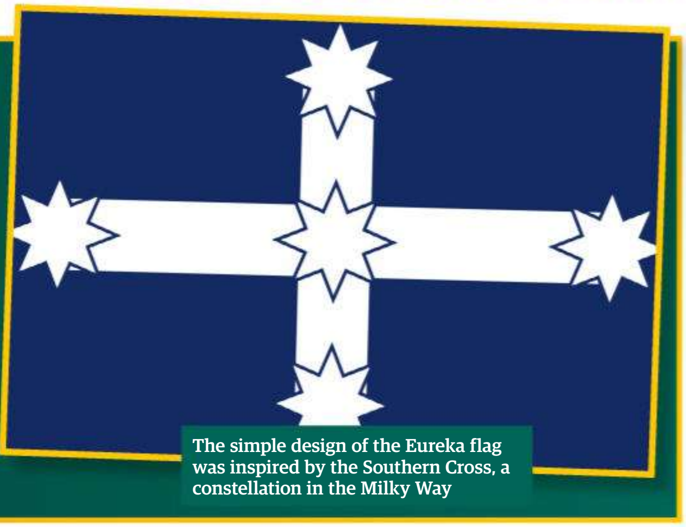
THE EUREKA FLAG

The white and blue Eureka flag was first flown during the infamous Eureka Rebellion at Bakery Hill in 1854. On 24 November 1854, *The Ballarat Times* wrote: "[At] about eleven o'clock the 'Southern Cross' was hoisted, and its maiden appearance was a fascinating object to behold." At the time, the flag was commonly referred to as both the Australian flag and the Southern Cross, but it was also called the 'diggers' flag' at the Eureka trials in 1855.

The flag, which is believed to have been designed by Canadian miner Captain Henry Ross, bears the image of a stylised version of the Southern Cross, a constellation centred on four stars in the southern sky in a bright portion of the Milky Way. The flag's simple design is thought to have been influenced by earlier designs of the Australian Federation Flag, which featured a small version of the British Union Flag. As a gesture of defiance, the Union Flag was excluded from the Eureka flag.

Following the Battle of the Eureka Stockade, the fragments of the flag were preserved and are currently held by the Art Gallery of Ballarat. Created during a key period of Australian history, the flag is now listed as an object of significance on the Victorian Heritage Register.

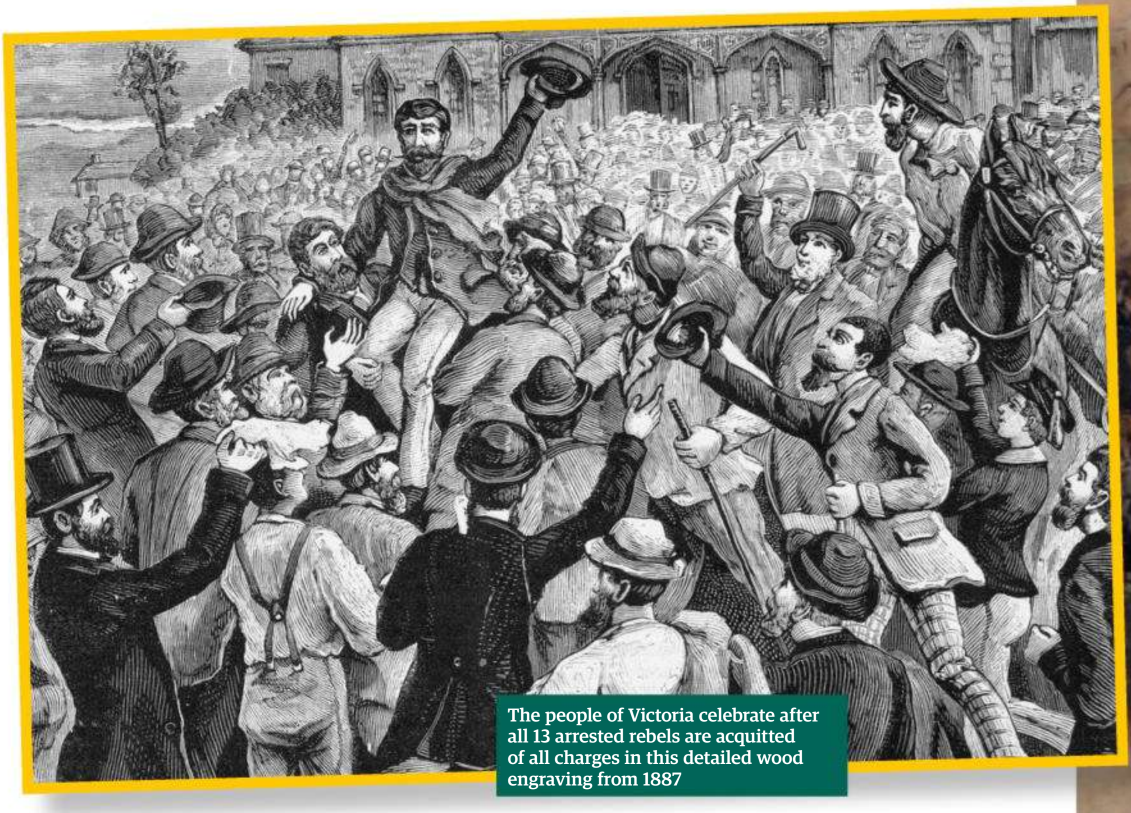


The simple design of the Eureka flag was inspired by the Southern Cross, a constellation in the Milky Way

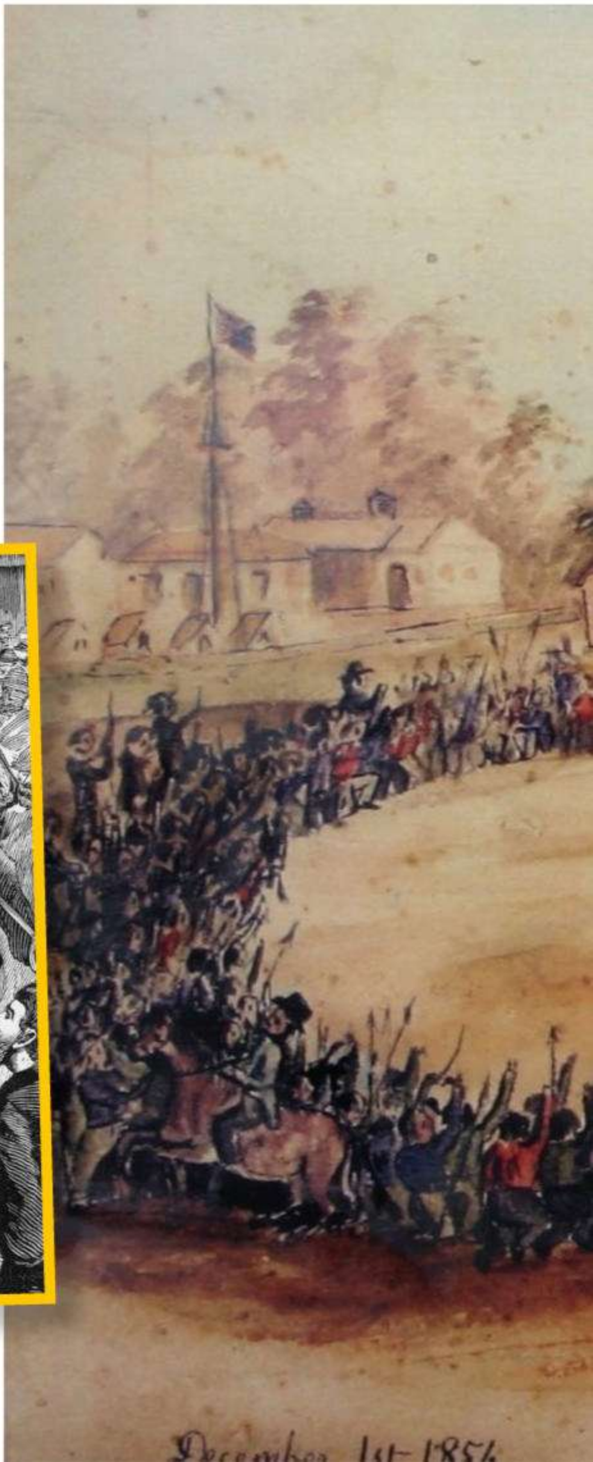
hearing of Hargraves' success, everyone and his dog wanted a piece of the action. By May 1851, 300 wannabe-miners had flocked to Hargraves' newly built tent town, Ophir, which he'd named after King Solomon's legendary city of wealth, and started digging for gold of their own. Innkeepers left their inns. Teachers deserted their students in the school houses. Sailors abandoned their ships in the harbours. The gold rush was born.

Suddenly, there was gold everywhere. Many prospectors struck rich in New South Wales and Victoria, and celebrated their finds by living lavishly. Others weren't so lucky, and many gold diggers ended up throwing their jobs and families away for a pipe dream. They returned from the goldfields defeated. But despite the losses, the gold rush transformed Australia in a way that no one could have expected. People from all over the world travelled to the area hoping to make their fortune, so immigration boomed as a result. The population increased from 437,655 to 1.7 million in just 20 years. Australian agriculture also reaped the benefits, with hundreds of thousands of new mouths to feed and plenty of down-on-their-luck ex-miners seeking jobs and futures on the farmland. The extra revenue generated by the gold rush went back into building Australia. Riches were reinvested in creating modern cities and kickstarting massive railway and irrigation projects to support the new arrivals that came looking for gold. Thanks to Lister and the Tom brothers' finds, Australians suddenly had the highest standard of living on earth.

Despite Hargraves' best attempt at pulling a fast one on his mining colleagues, he didn't fully get away with it. In 1890, almost 40 years after



The people of Victoria celebrate after all 13 arrested rebels are acquitted of all charges in this detailed wood engraving from 1887

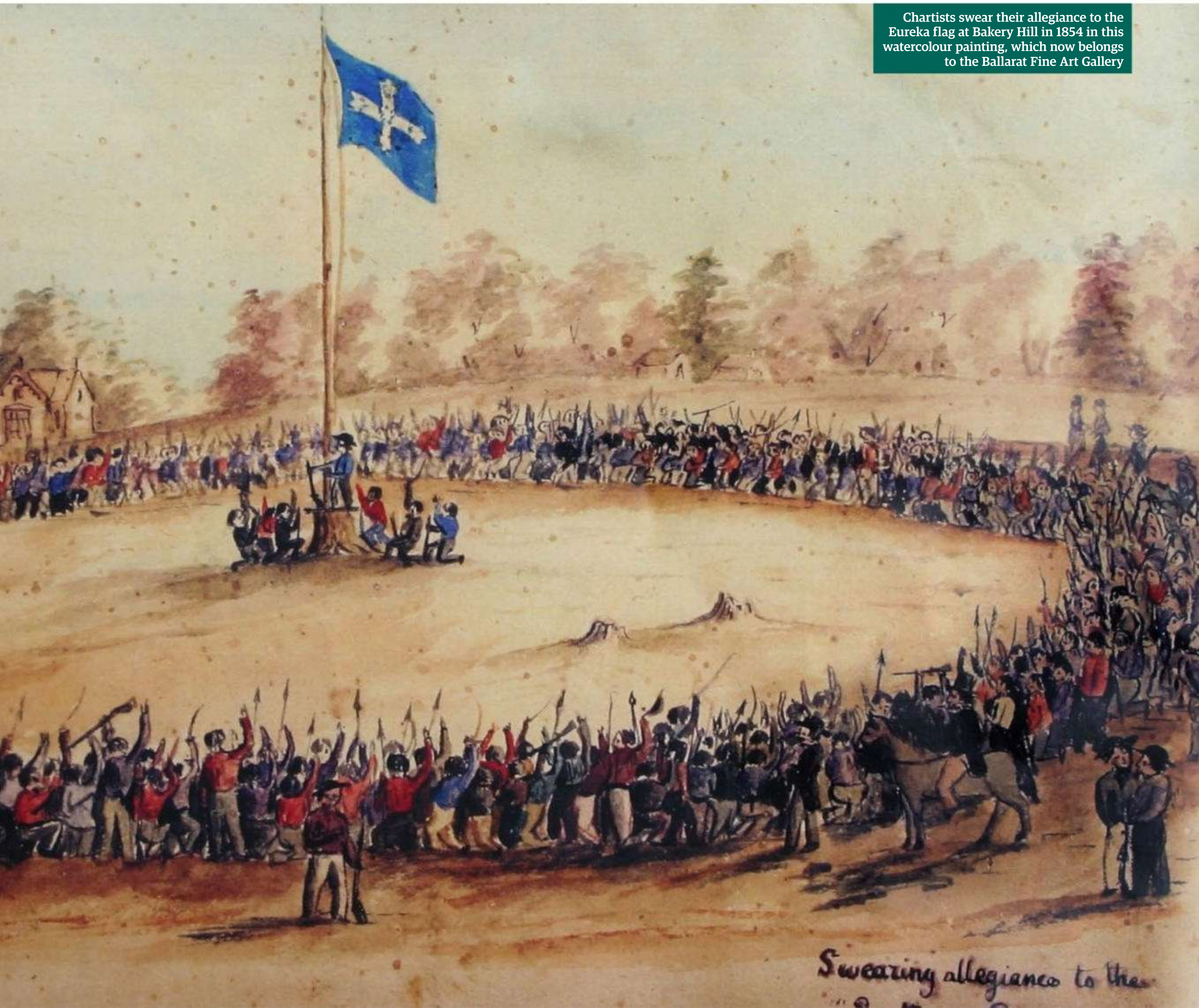


their discovery, he was taken to court and a New South Wales legislative council inquiry found that Lister and the Toms were "undoubtedly the first discoverers of gold obtained in Australia in payable quantity". The victory was bittersweet, however, as Lister dropped dead on the day he was due to give evidence. The inquiry's report was quietly shelved and Hargraves is still widely known as the guy who found gold in Australia.

Alongside the developments in immigration and agriculture, the gold rush also contributed to democracy taking root in Australia. One of the most famous events that saw a turn in legislation was the Eureka Rebellion. By 1853, almost 78,000 migrants had settled in Australia to join the Victorian gold rush, with many of them heading to the boomtown of Ballarat in the Central Highlands. Many of the migrants were British democracy campaigners known as Chartists – who aimed to gain political rights and influence for the working classes – or people who had joined the anti-government protests that had swept across Europe in 1848.

When the migrants arrived on the land hoping for a better life, things weren't quite as they had imagined them. There was no land left to buy on the goldfields, and only men who owned land or paid significant rent for their homes could vote. Women couldn't vote at all (though that obviously wasn't uncommon for the time). The voting laws didn't make sense; gold diggers had to pay a gold licence to work the land, which was counted as a tax, but it was a British principle that taxpayers should have the vote. It was the licence fees that funded the goldfield police, who regularly staged digger hunts to arrest people that were digging without licences. The hunts were led by James Johnston, who just so happened to be the nephew of George Johnston, the man who put down the Irish Rebellion at Vinegar Hill in 1804 and led the military Rum Rebellion against Governor Bligh in 1808.

Unhappy with the laws in place, many of the miners in Ballarat joined forces in an attempt to enact change in their homeland. Things came to a head in the autumn of 1854. The miners' anti-government sentiment hardened when Scottish minor James Scobie was murdered at the Eureka Hotel. James Bentley, the hotel owner himself, was the prime suspect in the case, but he was cleared of all charges by Ballarat's

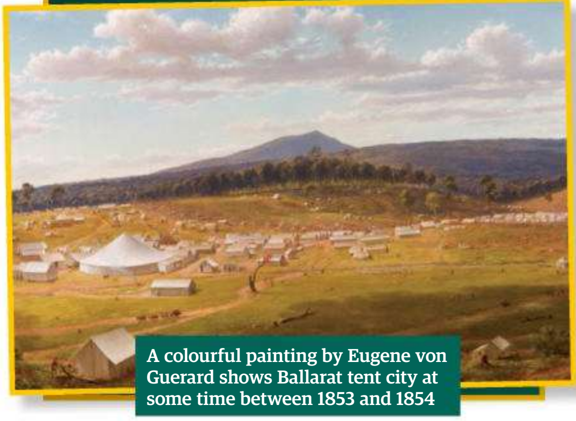


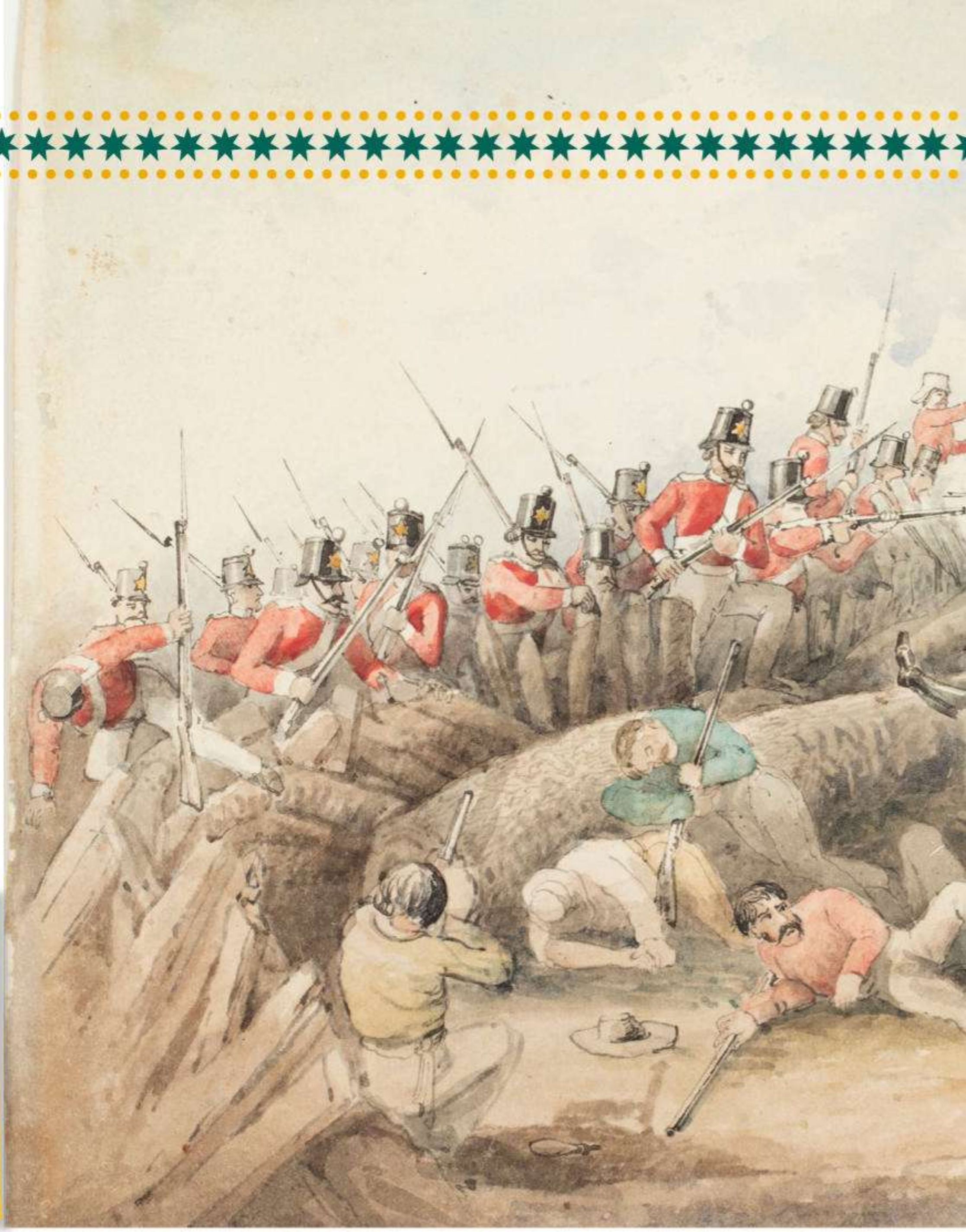
Chartists swear their allegiance to the Eureka flag at Bakery Hill in 1854 in this watercolour painting, which now belongs to the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery

THE BALLARAT TIMES

After the editor of the *Ballarat Times*, Henry Seekamp, was arrested for inciting the rebellion with his fiery editorials about the Ballarat Reform League, his partner Clara du Val took over the role and became the first female editor of an Australian newspaper. The publication was run out of their house on Bakery Hill, close to the Gravel Pits.

When Governor Hotham accused unnamed 'foreigners' of starting the rebellion, she took it upon herself to pen an impassioned piece – a manifesto, if you will – in support of the diggers. In the edition published on New Year's Day 1855, she wrote: "What is it that constitutes a foreigner? …What is this country else than Australia? Is it any more England than it is Ireland or Scotland, France or America, Italy or Germany? Is the population, wealth, intelligence, enterprise and learning wholly and solely English? No, the population of Australia is not English, but Australian, and sui generis. Any one who immigrates into this country, no matter from what clime or of what people, and contributes towards the development of its resources and its wealth, is no longer a foreigner. The latest immigrant is the youngest Australian."


A colourful painting by Eugene von Guerard shows Ballarat tent city at some time between 1853 and 1854



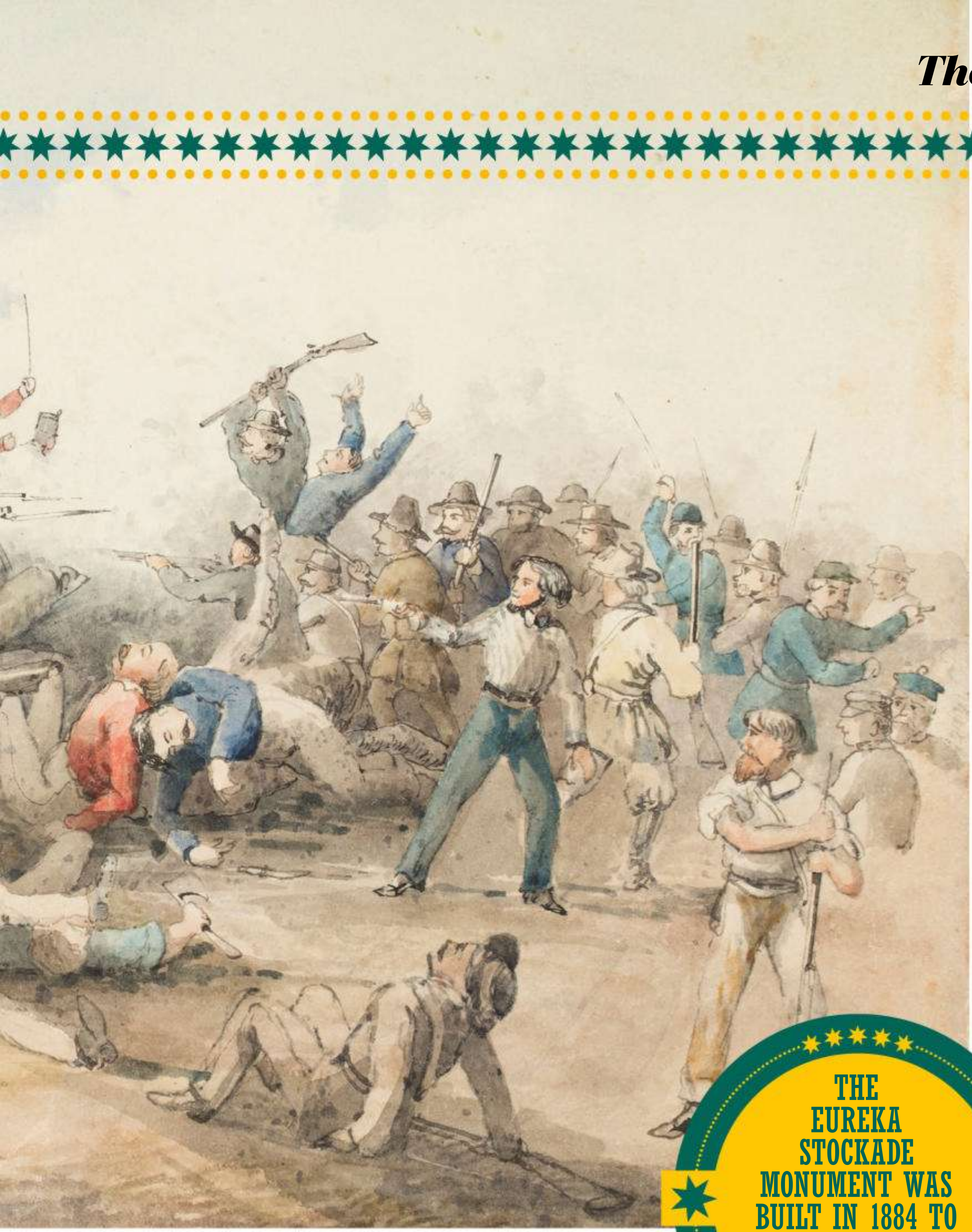
allegedly corrupt magistrates. The government's anti-miner sentiment hardened when miners burnt down the Eureka Hotel in protest. Now that the miners had the government's attention, the newly formed Ballarat Reform League started making their demands known and attempted to negotiate with Commissioner Robert Rede and Sir Charles Hotham, the then-governor of Victoria. Under the leadership of Chartist and Welshman John Basson Humffray, they requested that: the arsonists be released; the licence fee be reduced; monthly or quarterly licences be issued if requested; new arrivals be given 15 days to register before enforcement of the fee; diggers be able to invest their earnings in small allotments of land for agricultural pursuits; the penalty for non-possession of a licence be reduced; and the goldfield police patrols be discontinued. They also demanded that the arsonists be freed.

The government rejected the group's demands. Instead of addressing the League's grievances, Commissioner Rede merely increased the police presence, and ordered 150 British troops from Melbourne to Ballarat. Naturally, the troops were met with outrage and around 15,000 gold miners gathered at Bakery Hill on 29 November 1854. There, they burnt the infamous gold licences and raised the 'Eureka' flag for the first time. The following day, James Johnston gathered his men and responded to the protests with a massive digger hunt.

The events of the raid were recorded by local clergyman Theophilus Taylor. "This morning the police, as usual, made enquiries for Licences," he wrote. "They were resisted and a riot was raised. In consequence the troopers and military were called out and matters assumed a big serious aspect. A few were taken up and for a few hours the excitement subsided. Afternoon the mob had assembled and by evening had organised themselves into a gang of rebels."

The outraged miners re-gathered at Bakery Hill once more. They became impassioned when Peter Lalor, a militant young Irishman from a prominent nationalist family, stepped forth and shouted, 'Liberty!'. In the rising tide of anger, they elected him their new leader, took the new flag to the Eureka Lead and began building a stockade, a ramshackle affair hastily fashioned from planks and overturned carts. Lalor instructed blacksmiths to forge pikes for the structure, and chose a rebels' password: 'Vinegar Hill', which was associated with great Irish Nationalist defeats in Ireland and Australia. He also encouraged the miners to join him in swearing the 'Eureka oath': "We swear by the Southern Cross to truly stand by each other, and fight to defend our rights and liberties."

In the early hours of Sunday 3 December 1854, almost 300 police and British troops stormed the rebel base under the command of Captain John W Thomas, and so began the Battle of the Eureka Stockade. No one expected an attack on the Lord's Day, so the 150 miners lying in wait were unprepared and outgunned. Many of the rebels had nothing but broken firearms and theatre props to protect themselves. The stockade was a fragile



disaster: it was originally built to keep Lalor's men together, not keep enemies out. If government forces came to attack, the plan among the diggers was to "meet them on the Gravel Pits", or "retreat by the heights of the old Canadian Gully".

The battle itself lasted all of 15 minutes, and was terribly one-sided. At least 22 gold diggers were killed, as well as six soldiers. It is believed that many more diggers were injured but suffered the agony of their wounds while in hiding instead of seeking help for fear of repercussions from officials. Lalor was also injured, sporting a mangled arm that would require amputation, but he managed to take refuge under some timber and escape to safety in the confusion.

News of the Battle of the Eureka Stockade quickly spread to Melbourne and goldfield regions. In the weeks following the conflict, the status quo appeared to have been restored, and Commissioner Rede continued leading with an iron fist. But drastic change was on the horizon. Even though the government won the battle, it looked as though they might lose the war: Victorians were outraged by the government's attack and were overwhelmingly in support of the defeated miners.

THE EUREKA STOCKADE MONUMENT WAS BUILT IN 1884 TO COMMEMORATE THE INCIDENT

Thirteen of the miners that were arrested at the stockade were brought before the court on charges of high treason, but all of them were acquitted. One of the miners, a Black man from the United States named John Joseph, was found 'not guilty' after just half an hour of deliberation from the jury. When they delivered the verdict, a burst of applause echoed around the courthouse. The astounded Chief Justice, William à Beckett, condemned the applause as an attempt to influence the jury and promptly sentenced two of the men who had cheered to a week in prison for contempt. The locals were so thrilled with John Joseph's verdict that he was carried around the streets of Melbourne in a chair in triumph. Following the farcical trials, Commander Rede was removed from his post and reassigned to an insignificant position in rural Victoria.

The rebels' charges being dropped was just the beginning of their victory: the government bent to public pressure and finally abolished the gold licence. It was replaced with an annual miner's right, which allowed diggers to mine, vote and occupy vacant land for a small fee, and an export fee which was calculated based on the value of the gold found. Peter Lalor stood for Ballarat in the 1855 elections unopposed and was elected to Victoria's Legislative Council.

In his 1897 travel book *Following the Equator*, writer Mark Twain described the Eureka Rebellion as the finest thing in Australasian history. "It was a revolution, small in size but great politically," he wrote. "It was a strike for liberty, a struggle for principle, a stand against injustice and oppression. It is another instance of a victory won by a lost battle. It adds an honourable page to history; the people know it and are proud of it. They keep green the memory of the men who fell at the Eureka stockade, and Peter Lalor has his monument."

The Eureka Rebellion has been interpreted in many different ways in Australia's history. Some saw it as common folk rallying against imperial tyranny and demanding rights for a better life for all. Others saw it as greedy foreigners rallying against the government in a bid to steal Australian gold and avoid paying taxes. But whichever way you look at it, there's no denying that the rebellion had a profound effect on the country's politics.

The sudden upswell of democratic sentiment that followed the rebellion led to serious changes to the political landscape, which included world-leading social experiments. The secret ballot, the voting method which allows voters' choices in elections or referendums to be kept anonymous, was trialled in 1856. With it came universal male suffrage, which gave every adult man the right to vote, whether he owned land and paid rent or not. Next came the eight-hour day, which was brought about by stonemasons working in Melbourne in 1856. Inspired by the protesters that had come before them, the overworked labourers put down their tools and left their jobs until their employers agreed that they would work no more than eight hours per day. Australia now has one of the most progressive labour environments in the world.

For Australia, the gold rushes of the 19th century were about far more than just gold. As well as the increase in migration, employment, wealth and infrastructure, the fragile political climate meant that working people were able to gain enough momentum to make real changes. Without gold, Australia would not be the country it is today.

BLASTING
DANGER
OPEN SHAFTS
~Mining Area~
KEEP OUT
PENALTY $1000
for unauthorised entry
onto mining claims

Opal mine fields, like this one at Coober Pedy, are dangerous places, with open shafts, blasting and slag heaps (seen on the horizon)

A cut and polished Australian opal. 90 per cent of the world's opals are now produced in Australia, making it the centre of the industry

© Getty Images

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL TREASURE

When someone discovered a new stone in the Australian Outback, it changed the game forever

Words by Katharine Marsh

It was 1869 when the first opal was supposedly found in Australia. Listowel Downs in rural Central Western Queensland would unknowingly kickstart Australia's takeover of an industry that had been dominated by Eastern Europe.

The Australian opal industry didn't boom straightaway. The Boulder Opal and Lightning Ridge fields in Queensland didn't attract much attention until the 1880s, and it wasn't until the latter half of the decade that Australian opals made an entrance onto the world stage.

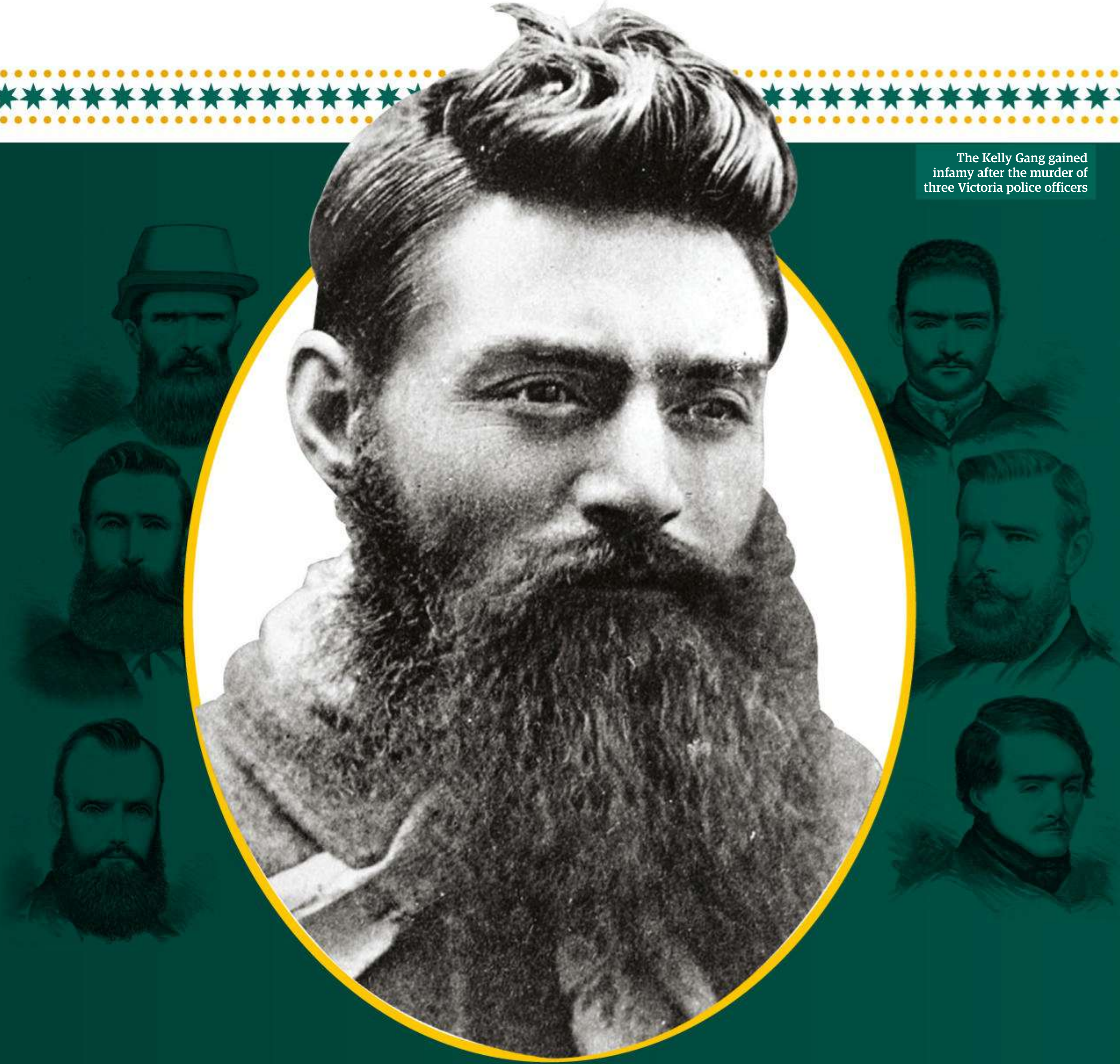
This was thanks to the work of Tullie Wollaston. After visiting the opal fields, he headed to London to meet dealers, only to find that they were suspicious of the Australian stone - because of its superior quality. Nonetheless he persisted, and it paid off. Soon, Lalique, Cartier, Tiffany and more were sourcing Australian opals for their jewellery, all paying no heed to the rumours spread by Hungarian mines that the Australian output was less than genuine.

The first opal mine in Australia was opened in 1871, south of the modern-day Quilpie in southwest Outback Queensland. More soon followed - the Queensland Boulder Opal and Lightning Ridge fields began operation in the 1880s, while production began at White Cliffs, New South Wales, in 1890 and Opalton, Queensland, in 1896.

Opal mining in the Australian Outback hasn't slowed down. In fact, it's only grown in Queensland and New South Wales - the Great Artesian Basin, which supplies inland Australia with water. The turn of the 20th century saw a new innovation, too - instead of sending rough opal abroad to Germany to be cut and polished, professional cutters began to appear in the Australian opal fields. Suddenly the whole process was made cheaper, and the opals were now 100 per cent Australian.

By the 1930s, Australian mines had taken over the global opal market. The high-powered Eastern European mines, once the envy of other opal manufacturers, closed one by one, unable to compete with the high-quality stone coming from the southern hemisphere. Today, 90 per cent of the world's opals come from Australia. It's a far cry from the humble beginnings of the industry, but now it's a backbone of the country's economy.

A raw opal boulder mined from Australia's opal fields. Australian opals are of a superior quality to those found in the rest of the world



The Kelly Gang gained infamy after the murder of three Victoria police officers

NED KELLY

ROBBER OR REVOLUTIONARY?

He's a national hero to some, a cunning crook to others – why is Australia so divided over one of its most enduring icons?

Words by Ben Biggs

Around 240 kilometres northeast of the city of Melbourne, Victoria, is the township of Greta. It's tree-lined, pastoral and, without closely inspecting a photo of the country surrounding Eleven Mile Creek, you could convince someone that it was the ancestral Irish homelands of some of its 250-odd population. Beyond the road leading through Greta there's a faded "Keep Out!" sign above a sturdy barbed-wire fence and, beyond that, nothing to speak of save more rolling pasture on a wooded backdrop, what looks like the rusted hubs of an ancient cart wheel and a solitary red brick chimney.

This is Kelly country. Despite looking like a fresh breeze would topple it into the dirt, this vestige of a homestead is actually a palace, its original owner – Edward 'Ned' Kelly – a prince of thieves Down Under, and the mythology surrounding his exploits every bit a jewel in Australia's cultural crown. Keen to preserve this monument, Ned's descendants have erected fences to keep tourists with busy hands from finishing the job the elements and gravity started nearly 150 years ago. And who can blame them when there are few such tangible truths to their ancestor's story left today? Where England takes its romanticised, 1,000-year-old Robin Hood story with a pinch of salt and no small amount of Kevin Costner, for many Australians Ned Kelly was a bone fide revolutionary who exploded from his humble Selector community in 1878 to defy the corruption of the colonial authorities. For others, he was a dyed-in-the-wool thief, a thug, a killer, an egotist manipulative enough to have spun his own legend to ensure its survival for many generations.

The early part of Ned's history is less divisive. His father, John 'Red' Kelly, was an Irishman who, in 1841 and at the age of 22, was convicted of stealing two pigs and transported to Tasmania. He made the crossing to Victoria in 1848 and ultimately settled with his new wife, Ellen, in the small town of Avenel. Red was a cattle rustler of note who had brushes with the law until his undoing in 1866. Unable to account for a suspicious pile of meat and hide in his possession, Red was given six months of hard labour because he couldn't afford the fine. This brutal sentence would break the 55 year old.

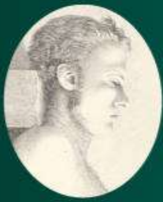
Red didn't separate his home life from his criminal career and young Ned was witness to his father's lawless acquaintances through his formative years. At just ten years old he would have seen the police take Red away, only for his father to die shortly after he was released in December 1866. It's not hard to imagine how, unchecked, this could instil in a wily young man an anti-authoritarian sentiment and the willingness to live outside society. The apple wasn't to fall far from the tree and Ned Kelly was cast in the mould of a future outlaw. Whether or not he was born bad is moot – the draconian penalties of the colonies had set Red Kelly's son on a bitter collision course with the law.

Over the next ten years, before he had thoroughly burned his bridges with two

BANDITS IN THE BUSH

MARTIN CASH

Cash was sent from Ireland (County Cork) for shooting at someone in a jealous rage. He arrived in Australia in 1828, embarked on a crime spree and then, unbelievably, reformed. He became a police constable in 1859.

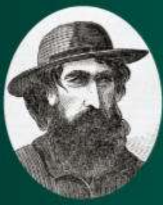


"WILD COLONIAL BOY"

50 years before Ned Kelly's capture, Jack Donohoe was setting the mold for Australia's bushrangers. His gang of English and Irish convicts robbed from the rich and sold to the poor. He became a legend in Kelly's time and songs were sung about him by the Kelly Gang before their final showdown with the police.

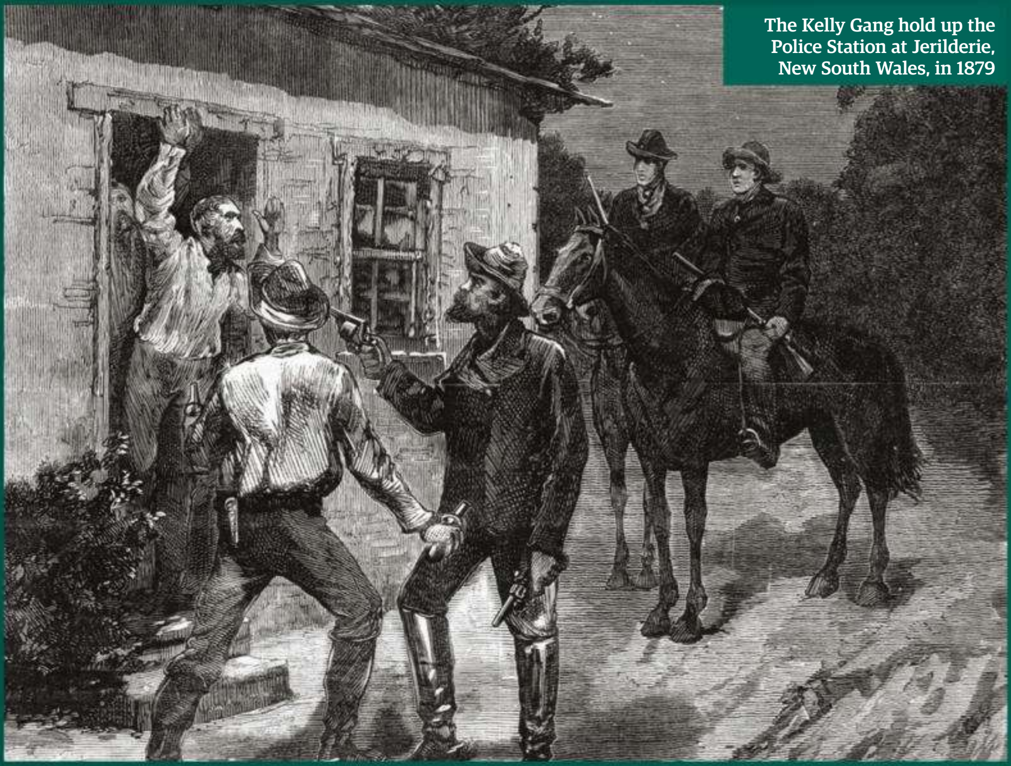
BLACK DOUGLAS

In 1851, Australia experienced its own gold rush with hundreds of prospectors descending on Victoria. A crime wave ensued and a tracker known as Black Douglas made a brisk trade of fleecing laden fortune seekers of the gold left in their tents near the gold field.

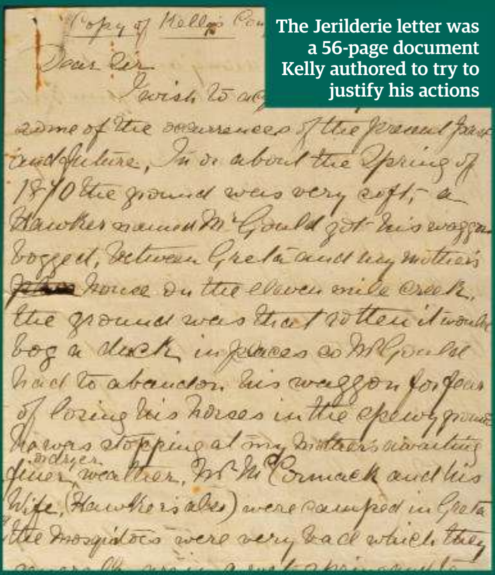


'MAD DOG' MORGAN

Dan Morgan's criminal motivations seemed to run to violence for the sake of it as much as profit. He was known for murdering on a whim and had similar anti-authoritarian sentiments to Kelly.



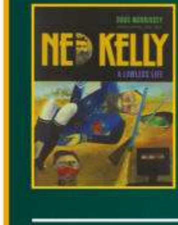
The Kelly Gang hold up the Police Station at Jerilderie, New South Wales, in 1879



The Jerilderie letter was a 56-page document Kelly authored to try to justify his actions

Copy of Kelly's Co
Dear Sir
I wish to ac
some of the occurrences of the present pas
and future, In or about the Spring of
1870 the ground was very soft, a
Hawker named Mr Gould got his wagg
bogged, between Greta and my mother's
house on the eleven mile creek,
the ground was that rotten it would
bog a duck in places so Mr Gould
had to abandon his waggon for fear
of losing his horses in the spewy grou
he was stopping at my mother's awaiting
finer or dryer weather, Mr McCormack and his
wife, (Hawkers also) were camped in Greta
the mosquitoes were very bad which they

VILLAIN



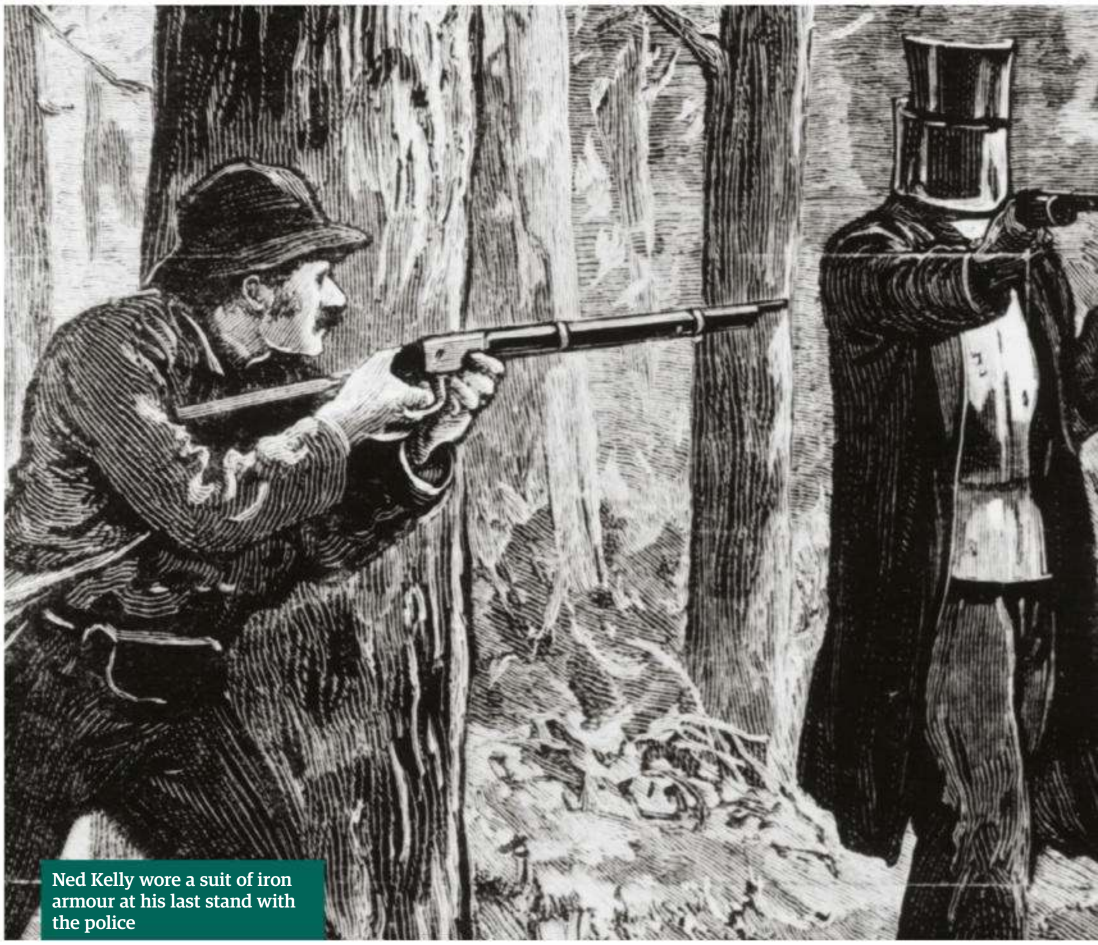
Doug Morrissey

Writer, historian and iconoclast Doug Morrissey is author of Ned Kelly: A Lawless Life, a criticism of the "whitewashing of the bushranger's criminal action". It's available from Connor Court Publishing and on Amazon, and was shortlisted in 2016 for the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Australian History.

"When you look closely at the history and motives involved, Ned Kelly damns himself by his actions and the wordsmiths find no fault. Kelly was a violent, narcissistic career criminal who bullied those around him and would listen to no counsel but his own. He committed murder and, if his grisly Glenrowan plan had succeeded as he had hoped, he would have been a mass murderer. That he is today regarded as a hero by so many has much to do with Kelly myth spin and fantasy. The Kelly myth version of history is not what it used to be – there are plenty of Australians who crave the truth and see Ned as a horse thief and killer, no more no less. However, the myth fascinates the Australian imagination and Ned is seen as an iconic Aussie hero when, really, he deserves neither accolade.

"The Kelly myth began in Ned's own lifetime. He was a good publicist for his own cause and he played the 'gentleman' bushranger role to the hilt. Despite the public's enchantment with 'Ned the bad boy with a gun', he was still regarded as a murderer and a criminal by his contemporaries. It was only after WWII that authors enamoured of the Kelly legend began writing about him as a political revolutionary and people's champion. This was when the idea of a Republic of North East Victoria came into its own – something that had no currency during Ned's lifetime. The evidence for all of this exists only in the fantasy-filled brains of Kelly's later admirers, who have misinterpreted his motivations and have little understanding of the Greta community or the pioneering times in which Kelly lived. Ned's 'bravery' was not as the public and media today choose to see it. He had run out of bank robbery money and was out of options, badly wounded and perhaps a little drunk, he took on the police in a last ditch desperation to end a bushranger's life he tells us he had grown tired of. He had always said the police would not take him alive; but when he was wounded and lying on the ground, he pleaded for his life to be spared.

"The comparison to Robin Hood definitely does not measure up to the historical reality. Ned robbed banks to obtain money for protection, shelter and food. There was never any distribution of funds outside his criminal circle and the destruction of bank records was more for show than an effective release from debt for poor farmers. The books, television series, movies and so forth all perpetuate the myth, and people enjoy a version of history where goodies and baddies battle one another. The question, as always, is how do you decide who are the goodies and who are the baddies involved? In Ned's case, the answer is simple: he lived a lawless life as a criminal predator and never apologised for the murder and mayhem he caused. Is this the kind of celebrity folk hero Australians and the world should be celebrating?"


Ned Kelly wore a suit of iron armour at his last stand with the police

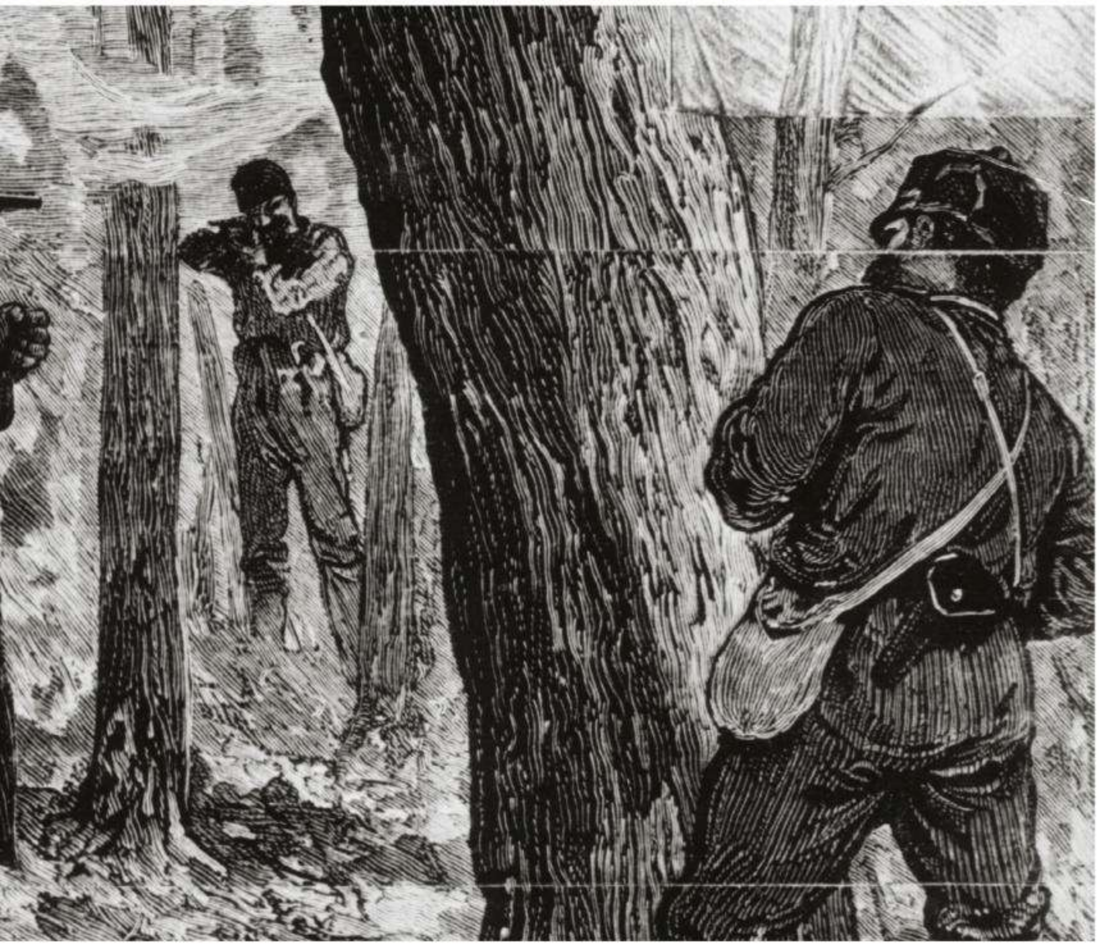
Australian colonies, Ned built up a criminal curriculum vitae that seemed to put him under a cloud of suspicion for so much as setting foot outside his homestead. From the age of 14 until his mid-20s, he was responsible for numerous counts of robbery in Victoria and New South Wales. Kelly trail-blazed muggings, horse-thievery and acts of violence on either side of the border, finding a nemesis (and others say at first, a friend) in local policeman Alexander Fitzpatrick. After apparently shooting the constable in the wrist when he came to arrest his brother Dan, he turned outlaw by fleeing into the Bush and Australian mythology.

Ned always seems to have had some excuse or justification for his crimes. When he was caught in possession of a stolen horse he was looking after for Isaiah Wright, he claimed he didn't know it was stolen. The subsequent brawl with the arresting policeman landed him three years in Pentridge Prison, which included a three-month stretch in a stinking prison hulk. Having taken the fall for someone else's crime, this was a matter of honour that required settling as far as hot-headed Ned was concerned, and he insisted on a boxing match with Wright, which Ned won, of course.

There was an alternative version of events to the assault on constable Fitzpatrick, too. Kelly said he wasn't even present when the policeman came to his homestead drunk and threatened his mother. According to Kelly, a brawl had ensued with Dan Kelly in which Fitzpatrick hurt himself on a protruding door lock. The constable took a beating and took off, then said he had been set upon by the Kelly brothers and that the wound to his wrist was from a bullet. It was an argument that would have saved Fitzpatrick face, as well as his career.

Tourists are not allowed on the grounds of the ruins of the Kelly homestead at Eleven Mile Creek

"Had I robbed, plundered, ravished and murdered everything I met," Ned Kelly wrote in a letter to Fitzpatrick's superior and Victorian parliamentarian Donald Cameron once he had fled the authorities, "my character could not be painted blacker than it as present, thank God my conscience is as clear as the snow in Peru." At



> "Kelly trail-blazed muggings, horse-thievery and acts of violence on either side of the Victoria / New South Wales border"

least of the sullied Kelly name and Ned's absence of guilt, we can be fairly sure.

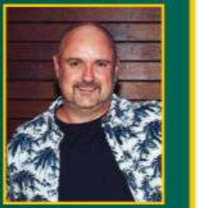
In the famous Cameron letter, Ned painstakingly outlines his grievances with a police force hell-bent on bringing him down, that they "use to be blowing that they would shoot me first and then cry surrender", and that while he was on the run "they used to repeatedly rush into the house, revolver in hand, and upset milk dishes, empty the flour out onto the ground, break tins of eggs, throw the mat out of the cask onto the floor, and dirty and destroy all the provisions, which can be proved; and shove the girls in front of them into the rooms like dogs and abuse and insult them".

In the same letter, Ned explains his version of a pivotal event, remembered as the infamous Stringybark Creek murders of three policemen on 26 October 1878. We know for sure that Ned and three others – Dan Kelly, Joe Byrne and Steve Hart – caught a party of policemen, sent to capture the gang, off-guard in their camp.

The State Library of Victoria made painstaking efforts to collect and assemble pieces of Kelly's armour

HERO

Brad Webb



Brad Webb is a writer and webmaster of ironoutlaw.com, a dedicated Ned Kelly website that has been around in various forms since the dawn of the Internet. Attracting over 350,000 visitors a year, it has become a valuable resource for anyone wanting to find out information about the Ned Kelly gang.

Do you think Ned Kelly's name has been maligned over the years?

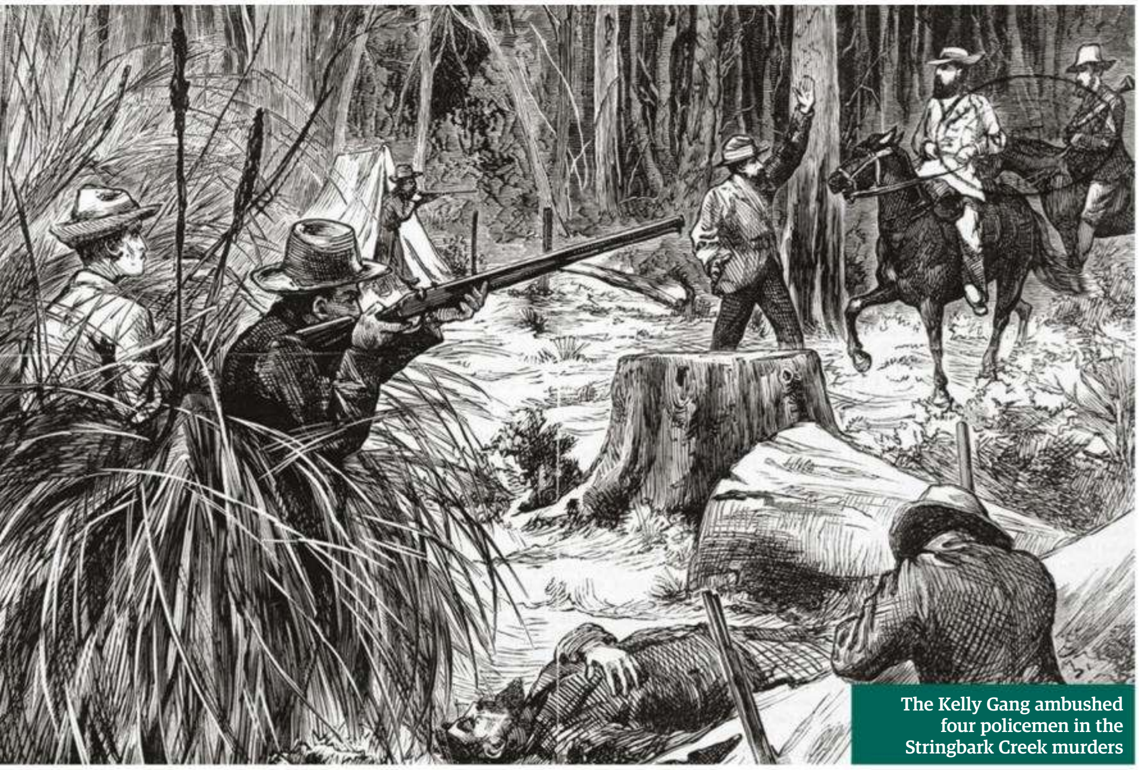
Ned made a number of enemies during his short 25 years. Land barons, police, and judiciary were keen to hold Ned and his type at bay. Even after he was convicted of murder, the presiding judge, Sir Redmond Barry, refused Ned's barrister's plea for an appeal to the Full Court, an outrageous travesty of natural justice. It is the Royal Commission which is possibly Ned Kelly's greatest legacy – Ned was an outspoken critic in the way the police conducted themselves not only in the pursuit of the Kelly Gang, but in the way they manhandled the entirety of northeast Victoria. The findings from the Royal Commission created a tradition of public accountability and self-examination, which still exists within the Victorian police force today, and it helped lay the foundation of what is arguably one of the world's best police forces.

Did he always have the support of the Greta community?

Greta, like many small towns located throughout northeast Victoria, primarily consisted of poor selectors. The Kelly clan was no exception. Like other families in the district, they relied on each other for support and friendship. Selectors faced resistance and outright hostility from squatters who used their superior economic position to manipulate the system, ensuring they retained control of the best land along rivers and creeks – known as 'peacocking.' It took the government many years to realise the system was ineffective and for conditions to improve. Meanwhile, a generation of selectors grew up with a precarious toehold in the colony's productive life and a history of antagonism. It was against this backdrop that the Kelly outbreak evolved.

Why has Ned Kelly become such a powerful icon for many Australians?

After Ned's execution, the dominant, anti-Kelly literature portrayed a ruthless criminal, while the image of a popular hero was kept alive in oral tradition and folk songs. Then, some 50 years after Ned's death, 'the tide of the published word turned' and Ned Kelly was seen in a more sympathetic light. First of the major pro-Kelly works was JJ Kenneally's *The Complete Inner History of The Kelly Gang and Their Pursuers*, published in 1929 and rarely out of print for the next 50 years. Each week, on average, there is a newspaper story published somewhere in the world with Ned Kelly as the topic. Ned has nearly 11 million pieces of information available online through a single Google search. He has been commemorated through music, words, paintings and film. More books, songs, and websites have been written about the Kelly Gang than any other group of Australian historical figures. And when you add the wide variety of Kellyana to the amalgam – such as clothing, toys, alcohol, tattoos and so on – then Ned Kelly truly is Australia's greatest folk hero.


The Kelly Gang ambushed four policemen in the Stringbark Creek murders

Kelly's death mask, a mould of the bushranger's features taken after his death – a common practice in the Victorian era

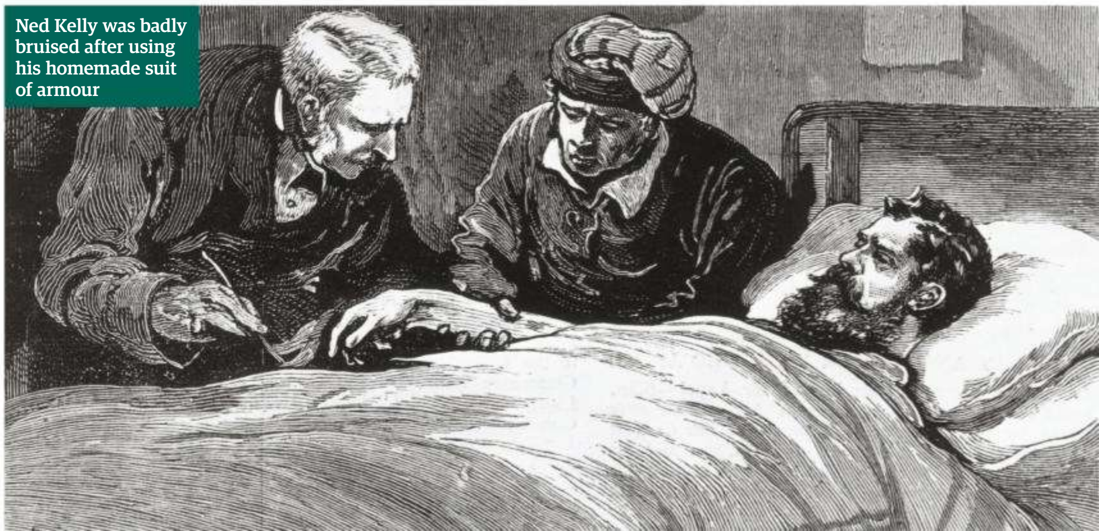
"The four men completely dropped off the grid, making camp in the Bush near the Kelly homestead"

Of the four policemen, three died – namely Michael Kennedy, Thomas Lonigan and Michael Scanlan – while the other, Thomas McIntyre, escaped to tell the tale. Ned's account reads like the script of a lone ranger film, giving the men the opportunity to surrender and taking life only when he felt that his own was threatened. "I gave him my word I would give them a chance," he told McIntyre as the four outlaws awaited the return of the other two policemen. And, when he killed Kennedy: "I put his cloak over him and left him as honourable as I could, and if they were my own brothers I could not be more sorry for them."

The three dead men were of Irish descent. It's possible Kelly would indeed have felt he had some connection with them, although McIntyre didn't seem to think so: "...like a great many young bushmen he prided himself more on his Australian birth than he did upon his extraction from any particular race. A favourite expression of his was: 'I will let them see what one native can do'." We begin to see how Ned Kelly became an icon for a new nation.

After Stringybark Creek, in early 1879, it seems the four outlaws had committed themselves to other serious crimes. They robbed two banks, stealing gold, silver, sovereigns and promissory notes to the tune of several thousand pounds, around 1 million Australian dollars today. The reward money for the capture of the Ned Kelly Gang sky-rocketed to £4,000 in New South Wales – or £1,000 for any one of the outlaws – with a further £4,000 offered by the state of Victoria. The four men completely dropped off the grid, making camp in the Bush near the Kelly homestead at Eleven Mile Creek while the police patrolled the towns, unable to match the rangers' bushcraft and uncomfortable at the thought of straying too far into unfamiliar territory after the Stringybark incident. After a year of half-hearted attempts to track Ned and his gang down, locals had lost confidence and respect for the police. By June 1880, the handsome rewards had been withdrawn and the gang's status as outlaws expired, though they were under no illusion that they would be free citizens. Bolstered by their previous encounters with the police, they decided to rob the banks in Benalla, Victoria, but would first shoot dead an informant under police protection as a distraction. They dispatched Aaron Sherritt and disarmed the four police protecting him with ease, then made their way to Glenrowan with the intention of destroying the rail lines to prevent reinforcements from arriving. Little did they know, this would also be the end of the line for the gang.

The most famous of Ned Kelly relics, a helmet and suit of armour, are housed in the State Library of Victoria. They are likely to endure far longer than the blood-stained green sash he was awarded as a boy aged 11, when he saved seven-year-old Richard Shelton from drowning in Hughes Creek, and which he wore underneath his metal suit at his last stand at Glenrowan. The symbolism here is palpable, depending on which camp you fall into: he's a boyhood hero clad in either the armour of his own righteous indignation or of an iron-cold murderer. Even Ned's intent behind the armour, if not the siege and gunfight at Mrs Jones' Hotel in Glenrowan where he wore it, is subject to considerable degrees of interpretation. The plates covered just about every part of the men's torsos and heads back to front with iron impenetrable to police gunfire – but not their legs. It seems an obvious weak spot, and that's just how Ned Kelly was stopped: with a hail of bullets to his


Ned Kelly was badly bruised after using his homemade suit of armour

lower limbs. Was the armour intended to protect them from a gun fight on the level playing field in town or, as some suspect, from survivors defending themselves in the train wreck that never happened, from an eyrie high above in the railway cutting?

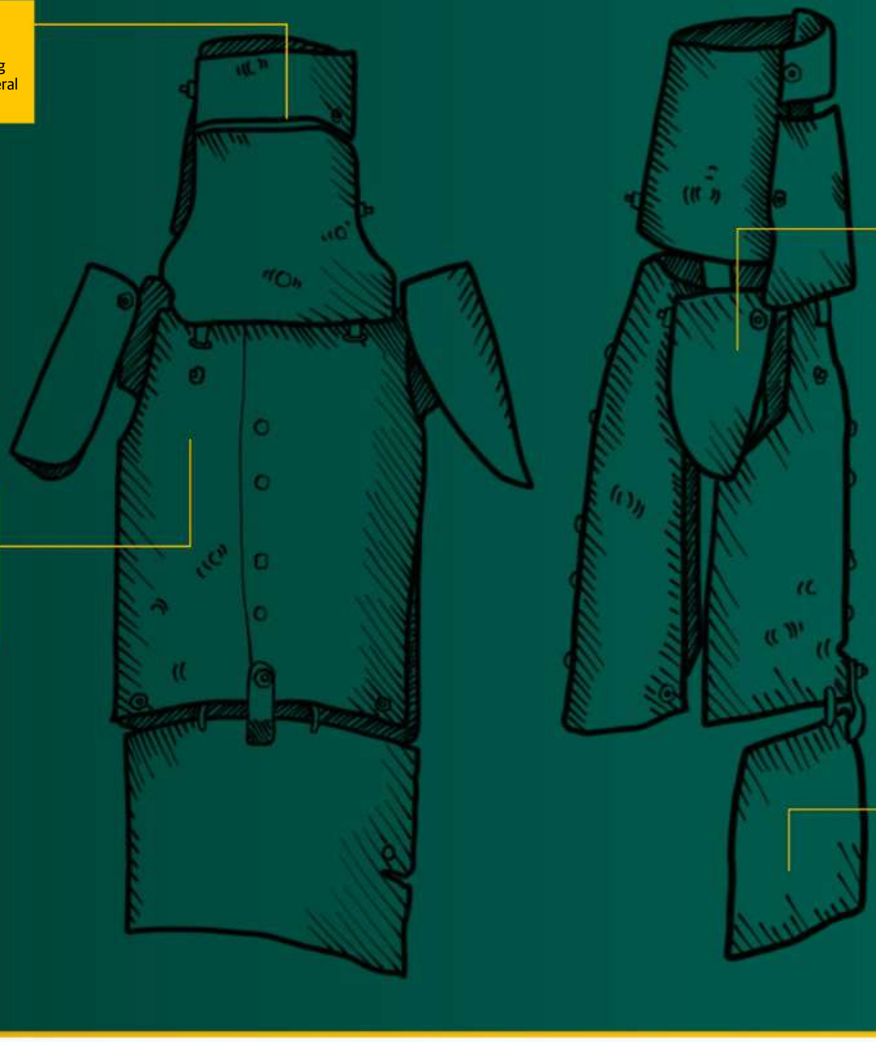
With police and militia closing in, the Kelly Gang threw a party to put the hostages they took at Mrs Jones's Hotel in Glenrowan – including some sympathisers – at ease. The rudiments of a Kelly following had begun and there were some supporters of his even among the townsfolk. But whatever revolution he might have had planned, this was, ultimately, the Kelly gang's last stand. After the police and local militia laid siege to the hotel, three of them lay dead and only Ned survived. After the bullet wounds to his legs were patched up, he was put on trial, defiant right up until the hangman's noose stretched his neck. A petition, signed by over 30,000 (some say coerced) supporters, was submitted to the governor of Victoria, but to no avail. Judge Sir Redmond Barry donned the death cap and that was the end of it – but not before Kelly had the last word. Apparently, when judge Barry uttered the words that should have sunk the temerity of the condemned man, Ned was said to reply: "May God have mercy on your soul. I will go a little further than that and say I will see you there when I go."

The hero or villain argument is a subjective one to say the least, especially when extrapolating black and white from the grey mists of 19th century Australia. Ned Kelly certainly did some bad things and he likely did some of them with less than the altruism that is to be expected of a hero – though it's very likely that the authorities he railed against were no better than him. As the remains of the truth crumble away, brick by brick, over time, we are left with a folk tale that is familiar in every corner of the world. The martyred revolutionary is a popular totem – and who knows what form the almost legendary figure of Ned Kelly will take years and centuries from now?

IRON OUTLAWS

How effective were the Kelly gang's suits of armour?

Forged from mouldboards, the thick metal parts of a plough, it took some time and a little volunteer help from Kelly sympathisers to put the four suits of armour of the Kelly gang together. Even then, they would have had to learn how to move and shoot in it. It was a hefty 41.4 kilograms – or as much as a bag of wheat – and half as much as Ned Kelly weighed again. It would have slowed him down significantly and also made accurate shooting near impossible. However, even at point-blank range it proved impenetrable to a bullet fired from a Martini-Henry rifle. So, despite remonstrations from the rest of the gang, once the armour had been put to the test, they were quickly won round. Ned also armed the gang with sawn-off Winchester repeater rifles (the famous gun that 'won the West' in the US), the rapid fire compensating for the handicap of the armour. The gang would also have to learn how to wear it, to take advantage of their newly bulletproof bodies and unlearn old gunslinging habits made impractical or impossible by the wall of metal they would be wearing around them.



Helmet
The helmet had a visor – a thin slit in the front – which put a big restriction on the gang's peripheral vision and shooting accuracy.

Vital organs
Covering the men's torso back to front, the chest plate also provided an anchor for the the shoulder plates and helmet, attached with leather straps and rivets.

Shoulders
Plates protected the men just over the shoulder. They would not be protected from a bullet to the hand.

Exposed
A plate hung to protect Kelly's groin, but the legs were left unprotected. Why this was seems a point of some contention.

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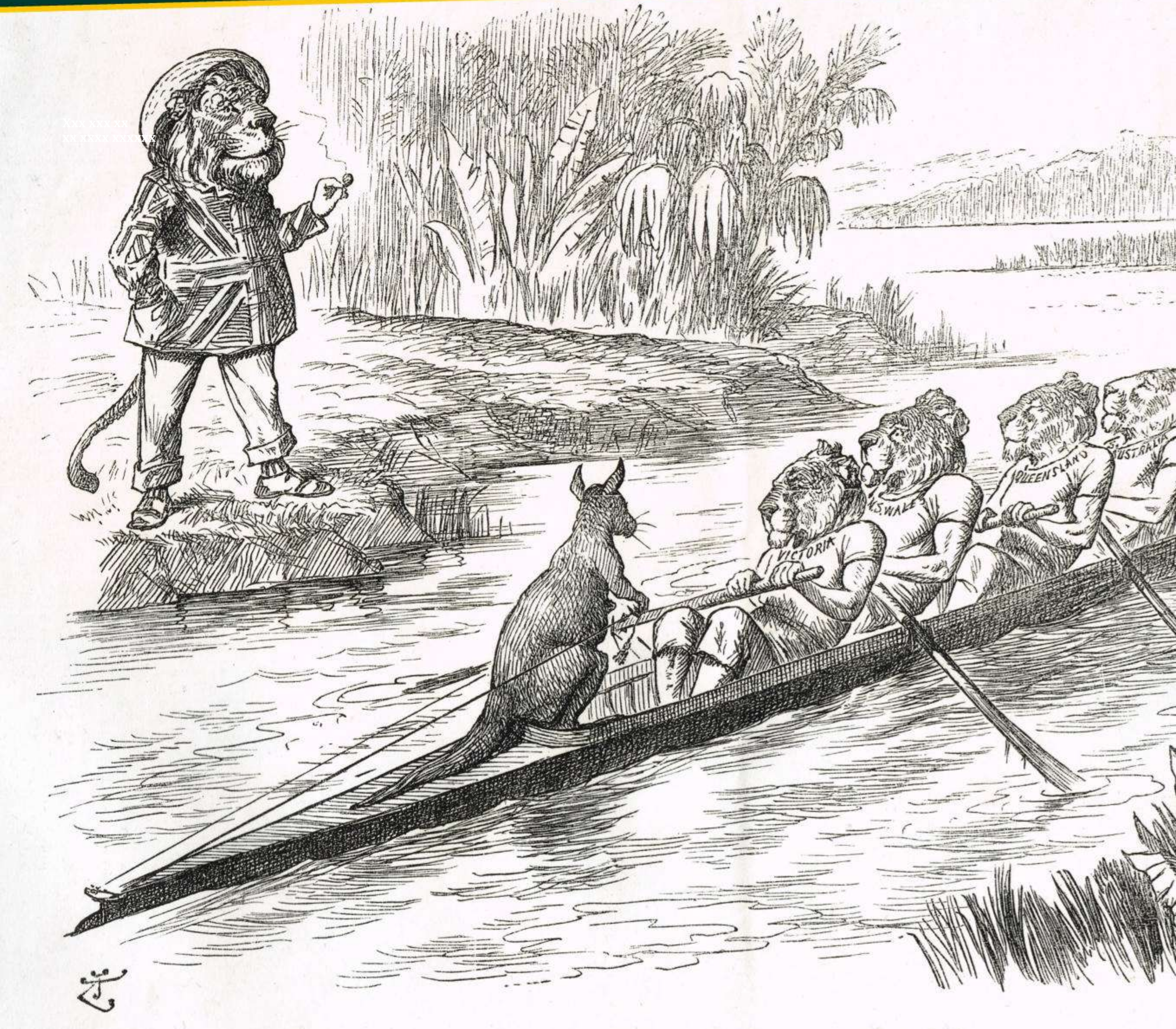
VICTORIA
N.S.WALES
QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

"ADVANCE, AUSTRALIA!"

British Lion. "BRAVO, BOYS!—*SWING TOGETHER!!*"

THE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

How six individual colonies came together in the face of what they saw as threats to their safety and prosperity to create the unified nation of Australia

Words by April Madden

At the end of the 19th century, the land of Australia was in chaos. Ostensibly under the rule of the British government, in practice the landmass was split into six different colonies. Each was under Crown rule, but also had its own laws, parliament, and system of governance. They collected their own taxes, often at different rates.

It was hard enough for traders to traverse the vast and challenging distances of Australia without adding in the complications of local government charging different tariffs for their goods, which ultimately resulted in ordinary Australians having less access to products that weren't immediately available locally. At best this was an inconvenience for wealthier Australians purchasing luxuries, but at worst it was something that could plunge subsistence farmers into famine, cause entire herds of livestock to succumb to easily treatable diseases, and create a resentful have-and-have-not divide between the major towns and cities and the vast tracts of Outback beyond. Traders themselves complained that it was impossible to cover the costs of travel, let alone turn a profit, when they were competing with insular and often tax-free local markets.

Another problem was that each colony levied its own militia for self-defence. In an era when gold and opals could make millionaires out of dirt-scratch prospectors almost overnight, when landgrabbers were out for whatever they could get, and when both were easy prey for criminals who could simply disappear into the bush, this caused untold issues. Conflicts could erupt over land that might yield metal, gems or good grazing. Access to water across political divides was a source of intercolonial strife. Ne'er-do-wells could skip from one territory to another to avoid local laws without fearing retribution or extradition.

Colonial border forces, anxious to prevent criminals and undesirables from entering their area, caused hold-ups by searching travellers, notably train passengers on the railway from Melbourne to Sydney – a route that was supposed to connect two of Australia's most up-and-coming cities and herald the arrival of the swift convenience of the modern world on the island continent. This perfect storm of mismanagement meant that everywhere from the most vibrant city district to the most distant sheep station experienced unnecessary shortages, delays, bureaucracy and frustrations.

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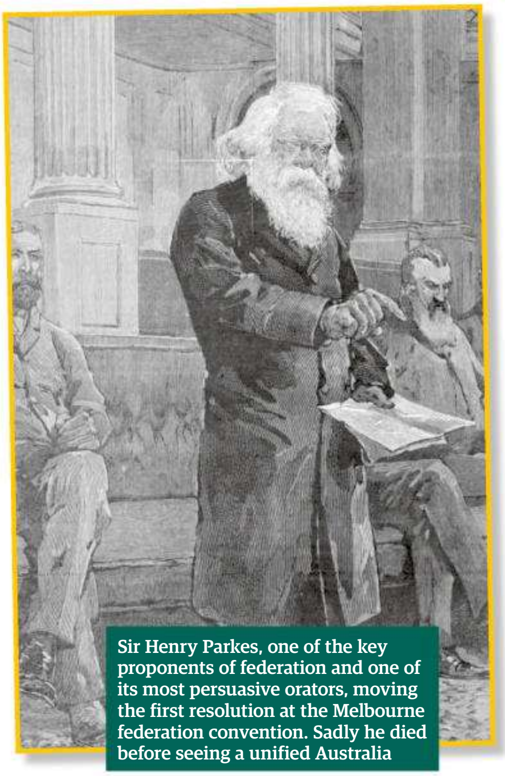
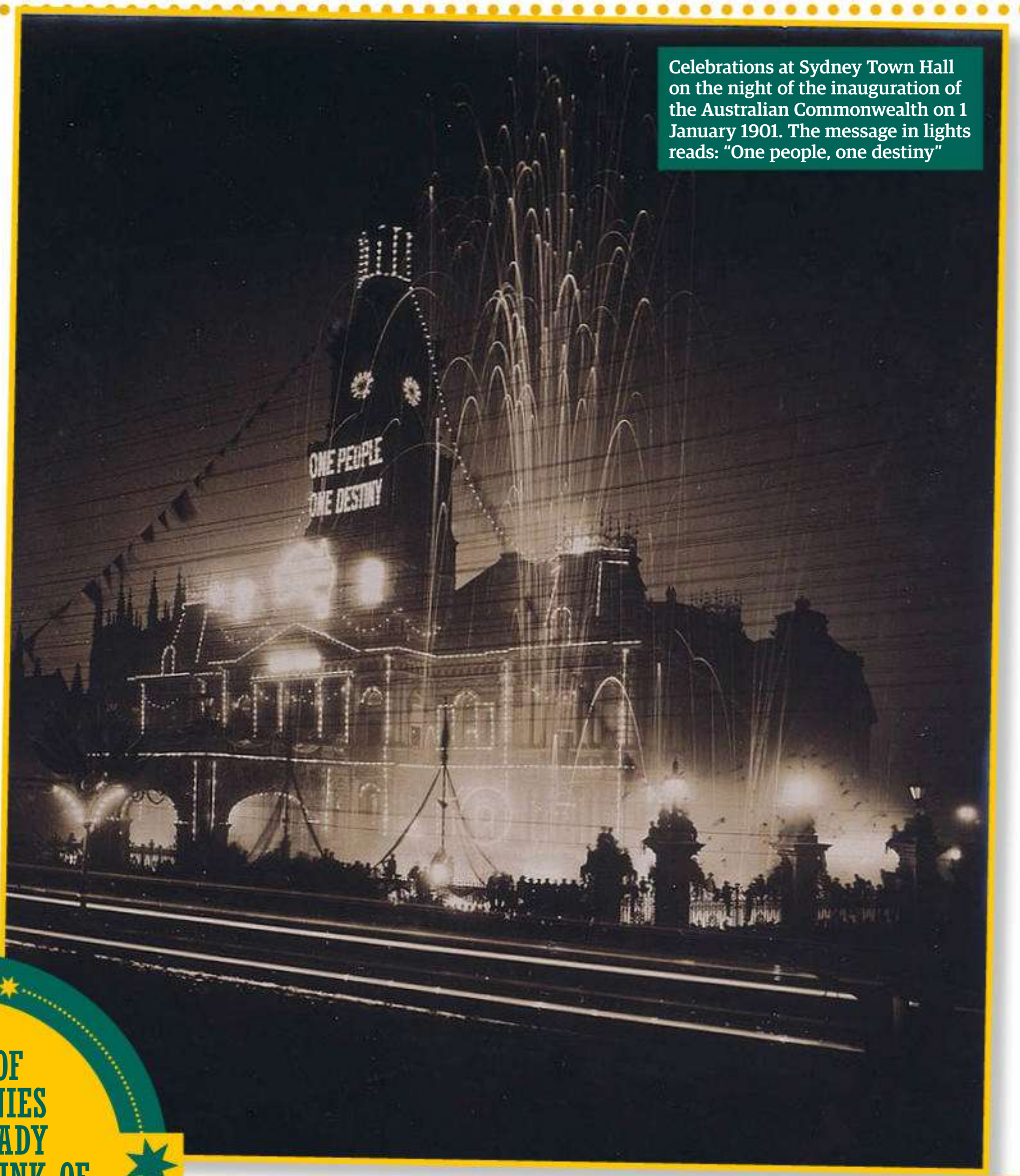


Sir Henry Parkes, one of the key proponents of federation and one of its most persuasive orators, moving the first resolution at the Melbourne federation convention. Sadly he died before seeing a unified Australia



Celebrations at Sydney Town Hall on the night of the inauguration of the Australian Commonwealth on 1 January 1901. The message in lights reads: "One people, one destiny"

Tensions were high and social cohesion was low when the people decided they'd had enough. Their common language and shared history meant they already thought of themselves as fellow Australians, rather than as British subjects of individual colonies. Serving in the Boer Wars had done much to give Australian men this sense of collective national identity, a sense that they brought home with pride to their wives and children.

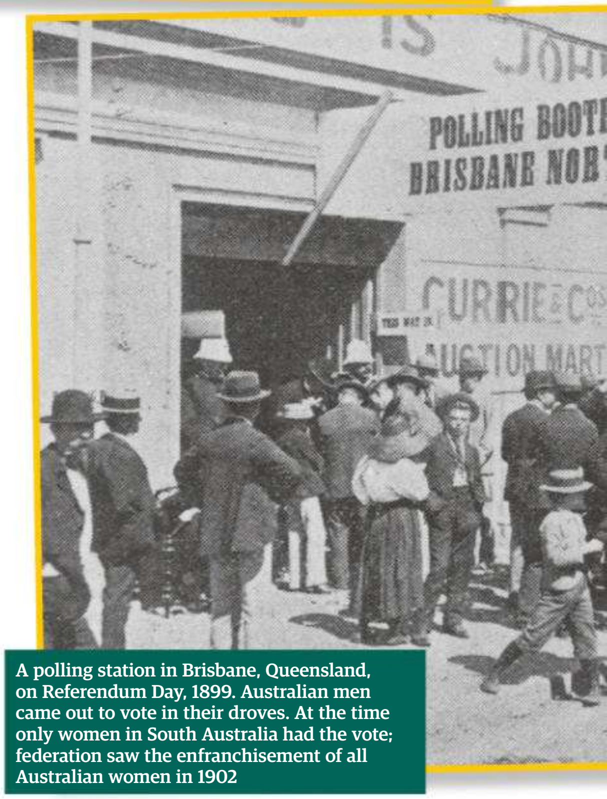
On a darker note, many who had been born in Australia feared that an influx of cheap non-white labour, particularly from China, would take jobs from the working class second- and third-generation colonists who relied on them to feed their families. Lawyer Sir Robert Garran, later the first federal worker in a united Australia, described his countrymen as united by a sense of "fear, national sentiment and self-interest" – not the most noble way to build a nation, but nonetheless a powerful motivating force. When physical, educational, and financial circumstances mean that you're effectively trapped Down Under, economic migration to America, that last desperate gamble of the poverty-stricken in the rest of the 19th-century world, isn't an option. Australians felt that in order to meet the challenges they faced and stand up for themselves, they had to stand together.

THE PEOPLE OF THE COLONIES HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO THINK OF THEMSELVES AS AUSTRALIANS

Sir Henry Parkes, the premier of New South Wales, was one of the poster children for federation, and on 24 October 1889 he gave a rousing speech in favour of a united Australia in the town of Tenterfield, which occupies a key position on the route between Sydney and Brisbane. This was the first time that a politician had appealed directly to the Australian public on the issue of federation, and it went down a storm.

Parkes drew parallels with the USA's unification and assertion of independence, playing on the assumed superiority of the Australian national spirit to assert that his countrymen could make a much better job of it than the Americans had done by asking rhetorically, "Surely what the Americans have done by war, Australians can bring about in peace?"

Even more jingoistically, he told his audience that they were already unified, saying that "a crimson thread of kinship runs through us all" (Aboriginal Australians weren't going to get a say



A polling station in Brisbane, Queensland, on Referendum Day, 1899. Australian men came out to vote in their droves. At the time only women in South Australia had the vote; federation saw the enfranchisement of all Australian women in 1902 in a scheme developed entirely by and for white colonists and their descendents). He concluded with the dire warning: “Indeed, this great thing will have to be done, and to put it off will only tend to make the difficulties which stand in the way, greater.”

Parkes was the perfect person to deliver this message of hope, patriotism and fear-mongering to his audience of ordinary, hardscrabble Australians, because he was one of them himself. He and his family had arrived as poor English immigrants in 1839; less than 20 years later he had a seat in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, before going on to serve five terms as its Premier.

The Australian dream was, in its way, as beguiling as the American one, and Sir Henry Parkes was a shining example of it. When he spoke, Australians listened, which is why New South Wales governor Lord Carrington hustled him off to Sydney to deliver the same rousing speech. Parkes had once boasted to Carrington that he could convince Australia to federate within 12 months, and Carrington, perhaps pandering to his colleague’s vainglorious character, took him up on his assertion. Parkes threw himself into his role with gusto – he would give variations on the same speech another 15 times in different places over the next nine months.

Thanks to Parkes, federation became a talking point not just among the political classes, but the chattering ones, too. Everybody was discussing it, in cities, market towns, colonial assemblies, and in conventions. The first of these happened in April 1891, and was called the National Australasian Convention. Held in Sydney, it included delegates from all six colonies as well as New Zealand (which, ultimately, decided not to join and to become a nation of its own). Over five weeks they set about thrashing out the terms that would, in the words of Parkes’ spiritual successor Edmund Barton, result in the creation of “a nation for a continent and a continent for a nation”.

> “Parkes was the perfect person to deliver this message of hope, patriotism and fear-mongering to his audience of ordinary, hardscrabble Australians – he was one of them”

Although they set out many of the points that would later form the Australian Constitution that we know today, the political fervour for federation was kicked into the long grass by the worst economic depression in Australia’s history. Strikes among key port and livestock workers (the twin boilers of 19th-century Australia’s financial engine room) coupled with a financial crisis in London, saw a drop in GDP of 17 per cent, a knock-on effect of property price crashes, and the subsequent failure of Australian banks and building societies. With the harsh realities of a much more pressing crisis to deal with, colonial governments largely abandoned federation as a utopian dream.

The people, however, didn’t, and despite their economic struggles, ordinary Australians continued to hold conventions to discuss the benefits and logistics of federation and to pressure their local governments into restarting the process. A people’s convention in Corowa, New South Wales, in 1893, agitated for referendums to be held on the subject throughout the colonies. The next year, the Bathurst Federation League continued to force the hands of the colonial governments.

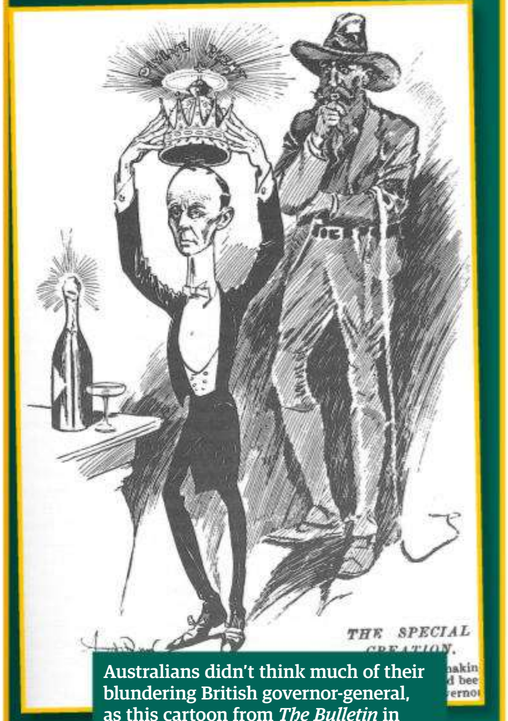
The constant lobbying eventually brought most of the colonies to the table, although by this point New Zealand had gone its own way, and Queensland was reluctant to join for fear of pro-white immigration and labour laws impacting its exploitation of low-paid Pacific Islanders as a manual workforce. Western Australia was also dragging its feet, concerned that populous, powerful New South Wales and Victoria would have an advantage over the large but then sparsely populated state.

Referendums were held in 1898 and 1899 across five of the six colonies, and in March 1900 a delegation from five of the Australian colonies, plus an observer from Western Australia, arrived in London to present the would-be Australian Constitution to the British Parliament. It was passed in July 1900 and signed into law by Queen Victoria on 9 July. Seeing which way the wind blew, and having gained an economic advantage from the western gold rush, Western Australia finally joined up. The Commonwealth of Australia was declared, to much public rejoicing, on 1 January 1901.

THE HOPETOUN BLUNDER

In December 1900, the newly appointed British governor-general was to nominate a caretaker prime minister to govern from the official date of federation until the March general election. The governor-general was John Hope, 7th Earl of Hopetoun, a member of the Scottish aristocracy who had been governor of Victoria before. While the British establishment considered him a safe pair of hands, he had been absent from Australia for much of the push towards federation and was unaware of many of the issues surrounding it.

The Colonial Office hadn’t given him any directions, so he followed the precedent set by the Canadian Confederation in 1867, and nominated the head of the colony with the largest population to form the interim government. This was a huge mistake – the then-premier of New South Wales was Sir William Lyne, a loud and vociferous opponent of federation. As magazine *The Bulletin* noted, “Among the men who can claim by merit or accident, to be front-rank politicians of Australia, Lyne stands out conspicuously as almost the dullest and most ordinary.” By Christmas Eve, the unpopular Lyne had handed his resignation to Hope, who was shortly persuaded to nominate Edmund Barton instead.


THE SPECIAL CREATION.

Australians didn’t think much of their blundering British governor-general, as this cartoon from *The Bulletin* in 1901 shows; he was depicted as out-of-touch, aristocratic, and arrogant

5 SHOCKING FACTS ABOUT…

WHITE AUSTRALIA POLICY

AUSTRALIA , 1901-73

AUSTRALIA FOR THE AUSTRALIANS
WHITE AUSTRALIA

AT A GLANCE

The 'White Australia Policy' is the name given to the various immigration laws initiated by the Australian government that favoured European applicants. Fuelled by racist ideas, they were designed to exclude non-white applicants, particularly Asians, from entering the country for fear that they would take jobs from unskilled white labourers.

01 It started with a gold rush

During the gold rushes of the late 1800s, many non-white migrants arrived in Australia, and soon began competing with white business owners. This caused tensions, particularly as they were willing to work for lower wages, which led to each colony establishing its own migration policies, sometimes excluding anyone of non-British descent.

02 Entry tests were made to be impossible

The 1901 Immigration Restriction Act gave immigration officers the power to make non-white migrants complete a 50-word dictation test, which would be given in a European language. If someone passed, they could be made to take it again in a number of different European languages until they failed.

03 Any 'undesirables' were deported

In addition to making entry into the country extremely difficult, the Immigration Restriction Act also meant that any non-white people who had come to Australia prior to the law being introduced were also required to sit the dictation test. If they failed, they were considered to be 'undesirable' and therefore deported.

04 Families were separated

Many non-white refugees entered Australia during World War II, but while most left voluntarily when the conflict ended, some had married Australians and wanted to stay. The country's immigration policy meant that these Japanese war brides were deported, but in 1949 the decision was made to allow them to return.

05 'Poms' were more than welcome

Towards the end of World War II, Australia was under-populated and economically vulnerable, so the government developed a new 'Populate or Perish' policy. This included the 'Ten Pound Pom' scheme, which encouraged people from Britain and northern Europe to emigrate by charging them only £10 for a ticket.

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THE AUSTRALIAN SETTLEMENT

Coming out from the shadow of the British Empire, Australia was ready to make waves

Words by Katharine Marsh

For Australia, the early 1900s weren't just the start of a new decade and a new century – they were the start of independence. On 1 January 1901, Australia became independent from the United Kingdom after a decade of political turmoil. Finally, the federation of colonies were self-governing as a British dominion. But the process of becoming a successful player on the world stage was only just beginning.

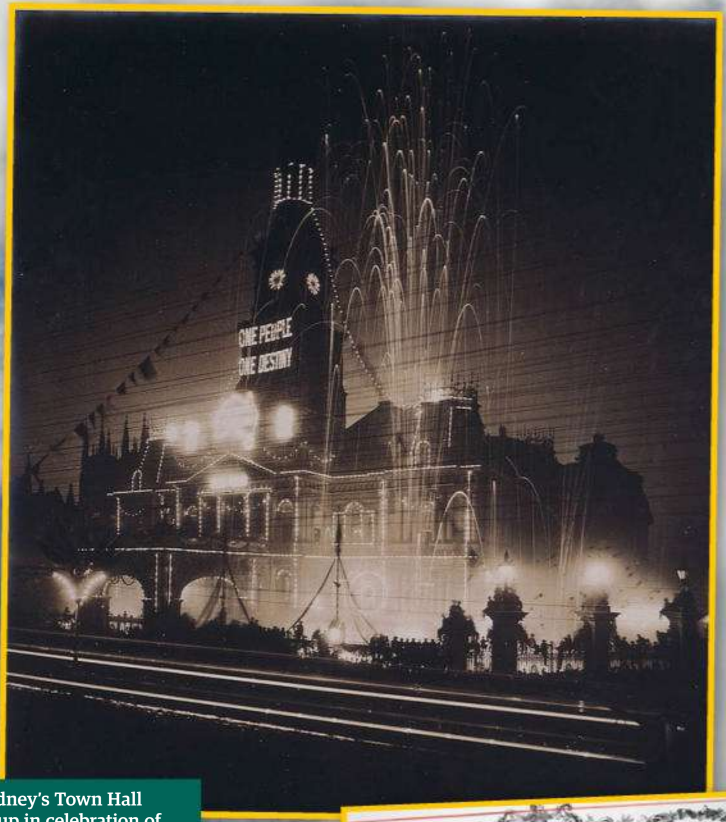
The country was almost starting from scratch. Roads, railways and ports were built to connect settlements and colonies, and each colony's capital got its own – incredibly expensive – ornate classical parliament house. Exports rose in wheat, fruits, meat and sugar, and there was a surge of national pride… and nationalism.

This nationalism leached into politics, and the Immigration Restriction Act of 1901 was introduced. More commonly known as the White Australia Policy, it stopped all non-European immigration into the country, creating an insulated white society. There were now entrance exams in European languages – the aim was that Asians need not apply thanks to a fear of military invasion by Japan and a long-standing hostility towards the Chinese. It would take over 50 years for the act to be repealed and replaced by the more relaxed Migration Act.

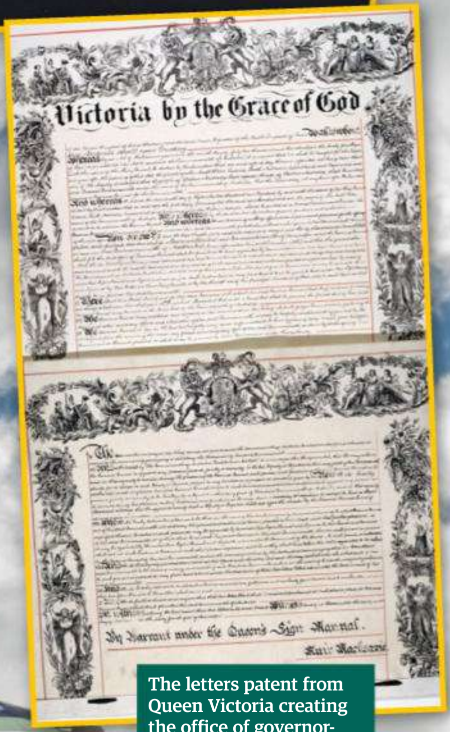
Patriotism was strongly encouraged in the early 20th century. National symbols like the wattle were introduced, and Empire Day and Wattle Day appeared in calendars. Empire Day later became known as Commonwealth Day. The Australian Notes Act 1910 finally allowed for the country's first national banknotes, a year after the Australian pound became a separate national currency from Britain's pound sterling. The Australian dollar would later be introduced in 1966.

Founding an army didn't take long, either. Australia was already at war, so those already serving were transferred to the new army that was formed under the Australian Defence Force. A navy soon followed just a few months later. To ensure men who were ready to fight, every man aged 12 to 25 would undergo military training. However, this didn't include Aboriginal Australians, who were exempt as they weren't of European descent.

Every nation needs a capital, but following independence, Australia couldn't decide – should it choose Melbourne or Sydney? Finally, a compromise was made in 1908: a new city would be built halfway between the two. Founded and named Canberra in 1913, the transfer of parliament didn't happen until 1927 due to World War I.



Sydney's Town Hall lit up in celebration of Australia's independence



Victoria by the Grace of God

By Warrant under the Queen's Sign Manual.

The letters patent from Queen Victoria creating the office of governor-general of Australia

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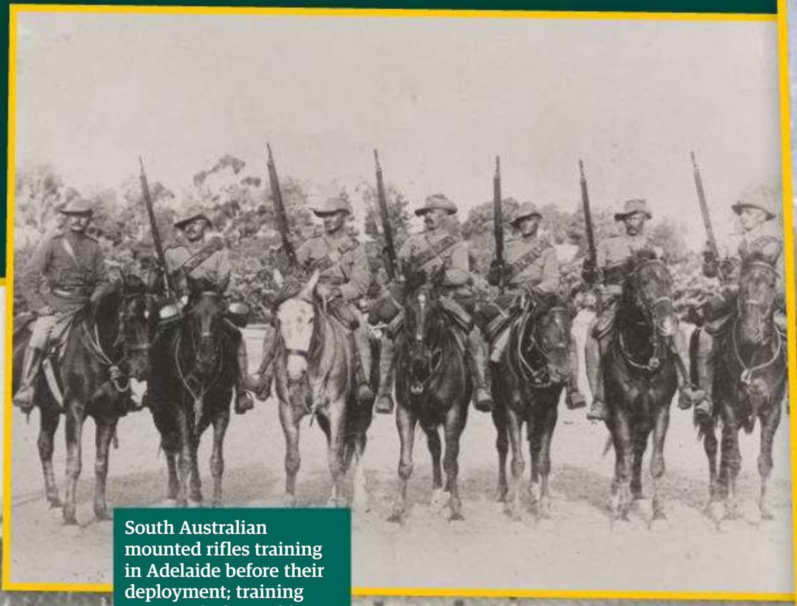
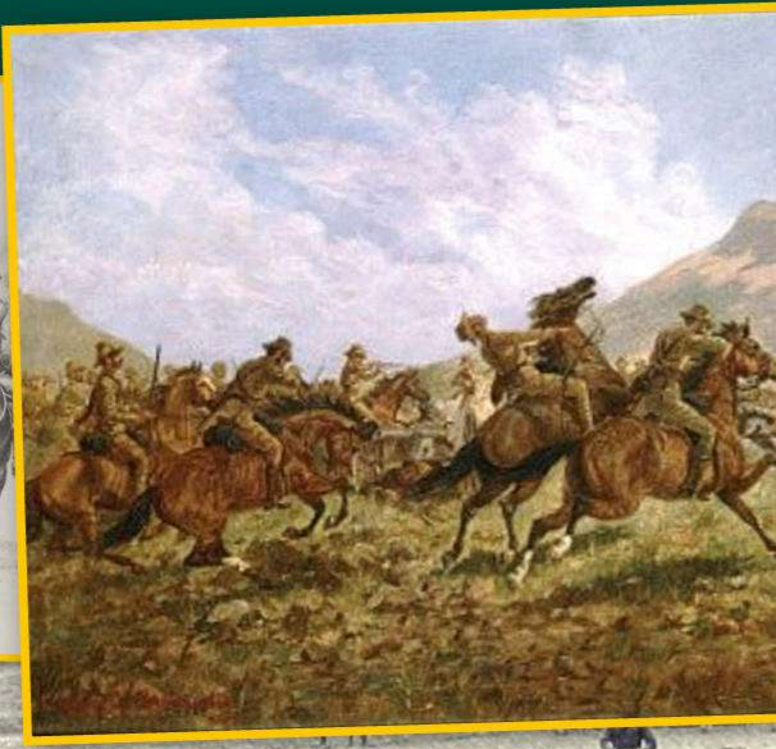


South Australian mounted rifles training in Adelaide before their deployment; training was rare before soldiers were sent to war



A troop of the Australian contingent raised to protect Johannesburg

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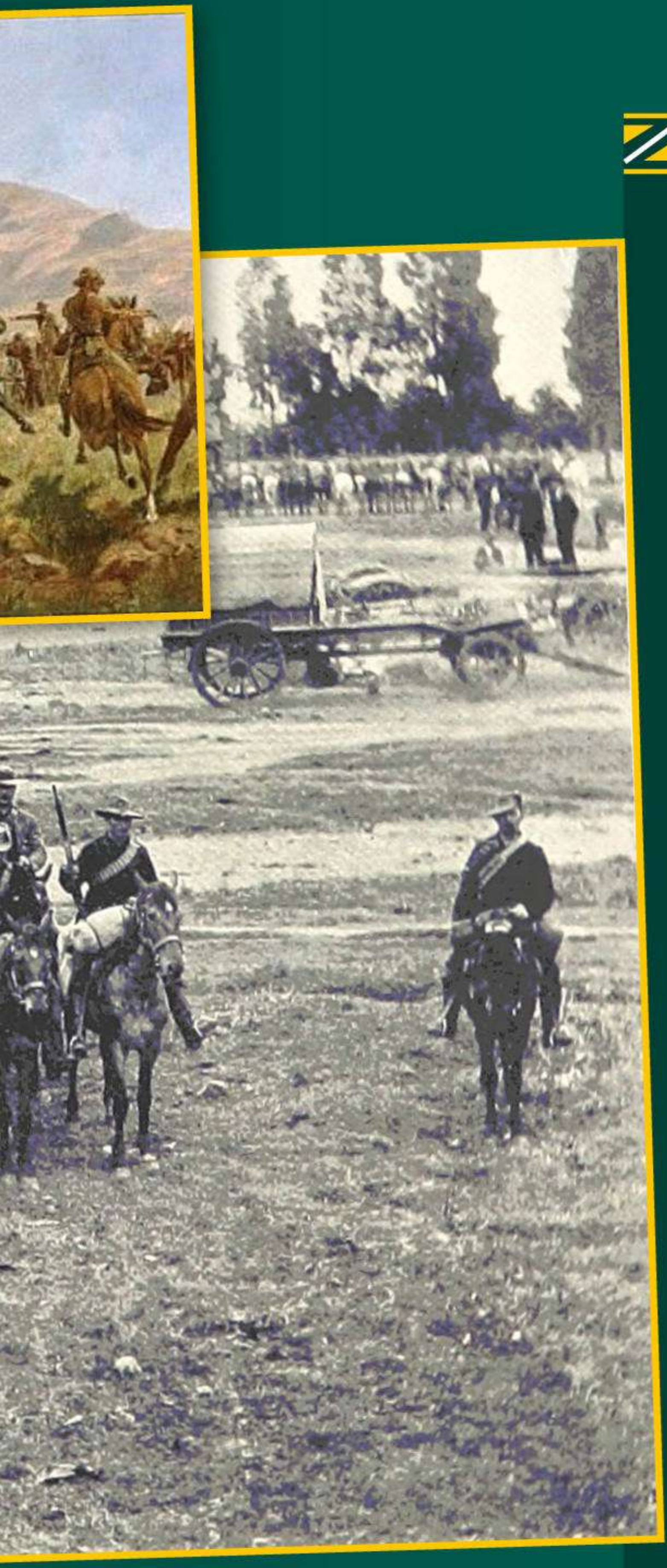


THE BOER WARS

As Britain went to war in South Africa, Australia was ready to offer support

Words by Katharine Marsh

When war broke out between the British and the two Dutch South African republics in 1899, nations from around the British Empire offered up troops; Australia was no different. In total, Australia sent around 16,000 soldiers (although numbers vary). Six Australians would be awarded the Victoria Cross.

The first Australian troops were raised in 1899, drawing on the militia men from around the territories. Soon, bushmen contingents were raised, and after the creation of the independent Australian state, the federal government created the Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents.

The colonial troops were an asset to the British throughout the war. Prized for their sharp shooting and riding ability, they were well suited to the open plains that were turned into bloody battlefields. British High Command and the media commended the Australian soldiers. In his 1902 publication *The Great Boer War*, Arthur Conan Doyle, famed for *Sherlock Holmes*, lauded the forces from Down Under for their efforts at the Siege of Elands River Post: "When the ballad-makers of Australia seek for a subject, let them turn to Elands River, for there was no finer resistance in the war."

But that's not to say that the Australian contribution to the war was without problems – officers had been poorly trained. In fact, a lot of the soldiers had received next to no training before being shipped off overseas to fight alongside the British.

Conditions were bleak on the front line. Trekking thousands of miles in the dry South African heat, lice were a persistent issue. Bathing was usually out of the question and hours a day were spent in the saddle. 286 Australians would die from disease, while only 282 died from battle wounds.

Support in Australia for the war was high at the start. However, as the conflict wore on, it started to dwindle. When the horrific conditions the British were keeping Boer civilians in came to light, support fell even further.

HEROES OF THE VICTORIA CROSS

JOHN BISDEE

The 1st Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen's Contingent in action against the Boers at Warmbad, Rooikop, Transvaal, South Africa, 1 September 1900

Words by Murray Dahm

When the Second Boer War was declared on 11 October 1899, governments of colonies from around the British Empire offered to send troops to contribute to the British war effort. This included the governments of the six colonies of Australia (the country would not be confederated into a Commonwealth until 1 January 1901). Among the troops sent were the 1st Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen Contingent, a unit whose members would be awarded two Victoria Crosses. Most of the troops the colonies of Australia contributed were mounted units, formed before departure. This was despite a decree requesting infantry contingents as being of most service and cavalry of the least.

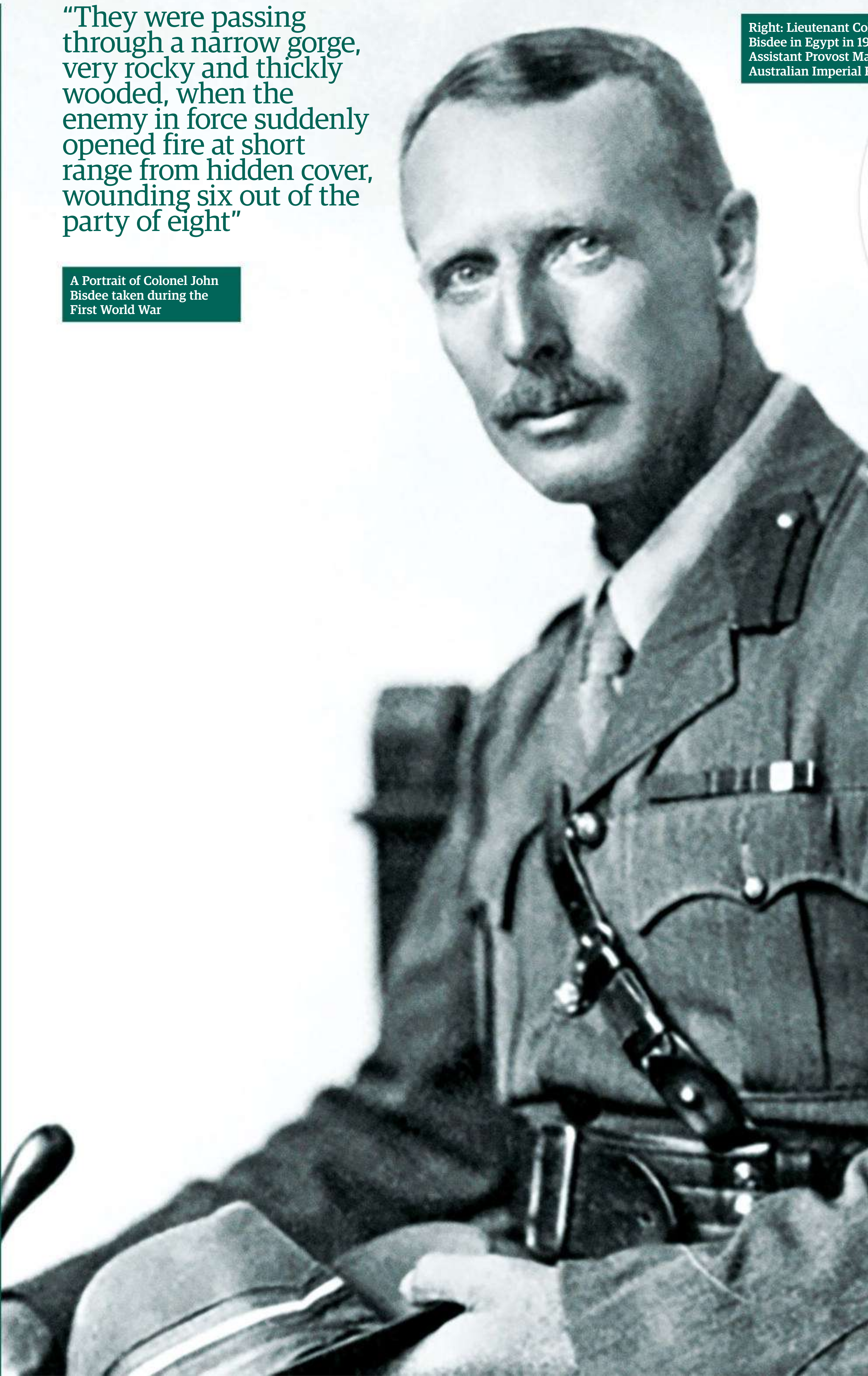
Australians also enlisted in British units or South African colonial units and recruitment for British units, such as the Scottish Horse, was undertaken in Australia. The Australian contribution to the war effort took place over five waves, the first coming in 1899 immediately after the outbreak of the war and drawn from the men of the colonial militia. The second wave included the bushmen contingents (arriving between December 1899 and February 1900), recruited widely and paid for by public subscription or sponsored by wealthy individuals. The third wave of Australians were the Imperial Bushmen Contingents, recruited in a similar manner but paid for by the imperial government in London. After federation came draft contingents raised by the state governments of the new Commonwealth and then, the new federal Commonwealth Government contributed Australian Commonwealth Horse troops. Some of these troops were still aboard their ships on their way to South Africa when peace was declared in May 1902. In all, about 16,000 Australian men served in South Africa. Trooper John Hutton Bisdee arrived in the third Australian wave with the 1st Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen's Contingent in May 1900.

John Bisdee was born in the small Tasmanian community of Melton Mowbray in 1869, some 50 kilometres from the colony capital in Hobart. His grandfather had travelled to Van Diemen's Land in 1821 (its name was changed to Tasmania in 1856 to remove the stigma of the former penal colony). Educated in Hobart, John had then worked the family holdings at Hutton Park, Melton Mowbray, until he enlisted in April 1900.

Australians were valued in South Africa for their abilities to ride and shoot. In many ways, the terrain they were used to traversing in Australia matched that of the veldts of South Africa. The Australians were also resourceful and used to enduring the harsh and unforgiving environment of the Australian bush. All these things should have proved positives in South Africa. Despite their enthusiasm for the cause many Australians arrived in South Africa without much training. The colony militias only trained a few hours a month and their service did not require much of them. Similarly their officers had little training despite some efforts to remedy this. Captain Charles Cox had led members of the New South Wales Lancers to Aldershot in England to undergo training in 1899. The disparity in the Australian outlook on life and British military training and leadership were evident in South Africa but would become more pronounced in during the First World War. During the Second Boer War, this fatal disparity became horrifically symbolised by the fate of Troopers Harry 'The Breaker' Morant and Peter Handcock, court-martialled and executed in February 1902.

The war in South Africa came as no surprise to Britain or the Empire. Tensions had been building between the Boers and Britain since the Napoleonic Wars. The two Boer republics, the South African (or Transvaal) Republic and the Orange Free State, formed in the 1850s, were recognised by Britain but tensions continued to grow. This led to the First Boer War in 1880-1881. Gold was discovered in the Transvaal in 1886 and many foreigners (especially British)

> "They were passing through a narrow gorge, very rocky and thickly wooded, when the enemy in force suddenly opened fire at short range from hidden cover, wounding six out of the party of eight"



A Portrait of Colonel John Bisdee taken during the First World War

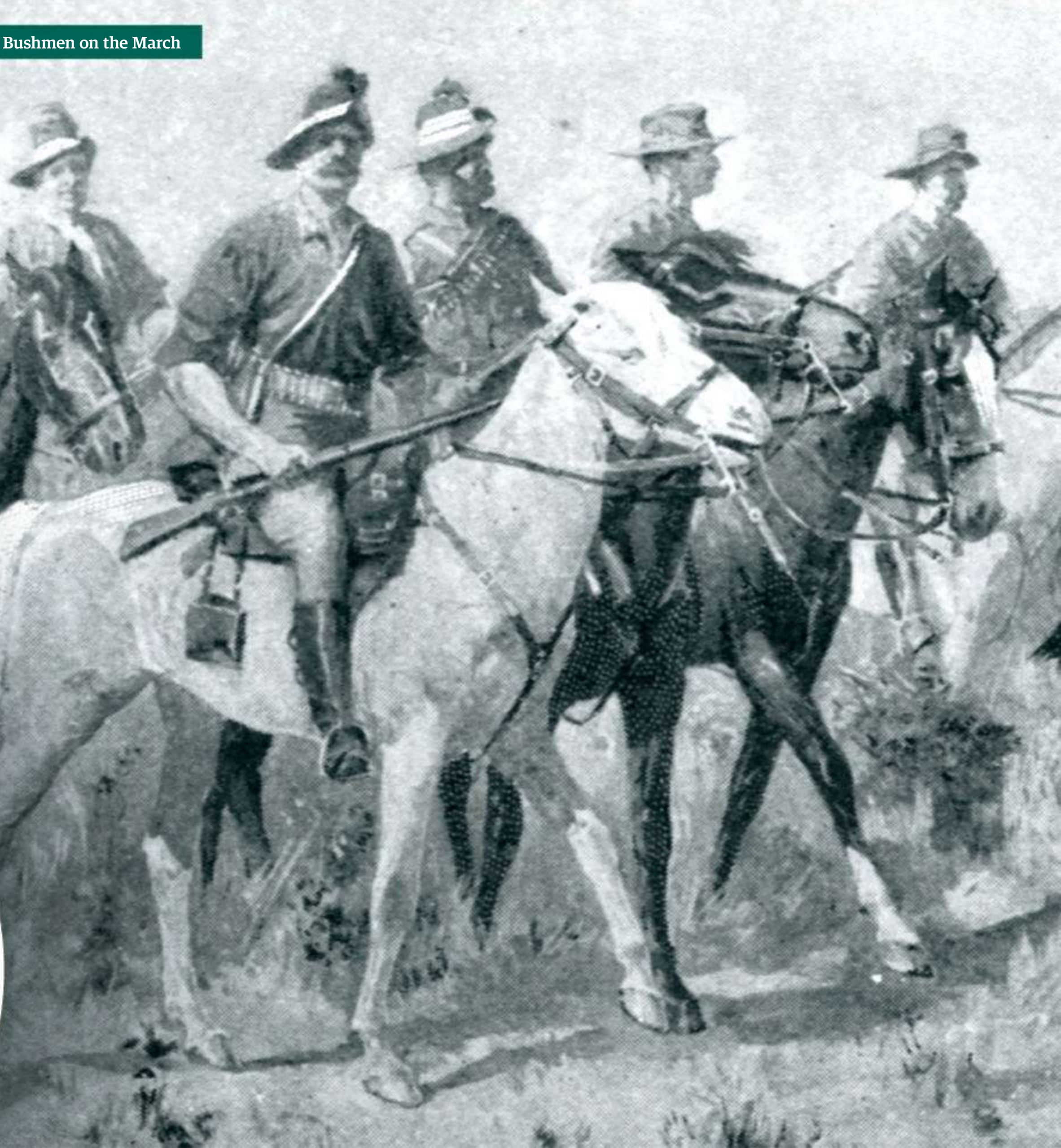
Right: Lieutenant Colonel Bisdee in Egypt in 1919 as Assistant Provost Marshall, Australian Imperial Force flocked to the gold fields. Britain wanted to incorporate the Transvaal and the Orange Free State into a federation under British control and agitated for the rights of British citizens within Transvaal as well as control of the gold fields. Negotiations broke down in June 1899 and a series of ultimatums led to war being declared on Britain by the Transvaal Republic and the Orange Free State.

As early as July 1899, the Australian colony of Queensland offered to send troops and forces were requested from New South Wales and Victoria that same month. The first of these contingents arrived in South Africa in November 1899. As such, Australian troops were involved in the three phases of the war. The first phase, when British infantry were defeated and besieged by the more mobile Boer troops, took place between October and December 1899. The second phase, between December 1899 and September 1900, saw the British counter-offensive and most towns in South Africa coming under British control. The third phase, between September 1900 and May 1902, saw a largely guerrilla war waged between mounted Boer commandos and British mounted units. The first Australian units arrived too late, however, to be involved in the defeats of the 'black week' (10-17 December 1899) when more than 2,000 casualties were inflicted on the British by the Boers in three separate engagements. Australian troops were involved with the cavalry of Major-General John French at the relief of Kimberley and then at the battle of Paardeberg in February 1900.

Bisdee arrived with the 1st Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen's Contingent on 28 May 1900 with 121 men and 133 horses, having set sail on 26 April. His unit was involved in the later phases of the British counter-offensive. Following the defeat at Paardeberg, the Boers relied more and more on guerrilla tactics performed by fast moving mounted irregular units. In response the British relied more and more on their own mounted units and especially those from Australia to whom the irregular nature of the war now seemed best suited. This was despite the incredibly harsh conditions for both horses and men. The Australians lost more men to disease than were killed by enemy action throughout the war. The units with Bisdee's (the 4th South Australians and 4th Western Australians) formed the 4th Imperial Bushmen under Lieutenant-Colonel Rowell. They proceeded to Port Elizabeth and from there were given the role of encircling the Boers in the Wittebergen Basin, a Boer mountain stronghold in the North-East Orange River Colony. A supply colony destined for Lindley and defended by the Tasmanians was attacked by General Piet De Wet's forces but these were driven off. The Tasmanians were transported by train to Praetoria in August and then marched to join General Paget at Lindley. They subsequently saw hard fighting, one account stating that the men were under fire virtually every day. The Tasmanians joined the Mounted Brigade where they were usually employed as the advance guard, especially when enemy contact was expected.

On 1 September 1900, 20 men of the squadron under the command of 20-year-old Lieutenant Guy Wylly. The lieutenant would also be awarded the VC for his actions that day. The Tasmanian Contingent were, as usual, in advance of the main

Colonial Troops in South Africa, 1899-1901: Australian Bushmen on the March



Below: A group photo from Trooper Bisdee's welcome home to Tasmania after he was invalided home

force at Warmbad, near Rooikop, Transvaal. A group of eight men split off to pursue some 350 Boer cattle.

They entered a narrow gorge, rocky and thickly wooded, when a small force of Boers opened fire from cover and immediately wounded six of the eight Tasmanians, including Bisdee, Wylly and the other officer. One trooper (Brown) was wounded and later died, Corporal Brown was also wounded.

In his citation, Trooper Bisdee, incorrectly termed a private, "was one of an advance scouting party passing through a narrow gorge, when the enemy suddenly opened fire at close range and six out of the party of eight were wounded, including two officers. The horse of one of the wounded officers bolted and Trooper Bisdee dismounted, put the officer on his own horse and took him out of range of the very heavy fire". Wylly's citation gives more details of the engagement, "That officer, seeing that one of his men was badly wounded in the leg, and that his horse was shot, went back to the man's assistance, made him take his [Lieutenant Wylly's] horse, and opened fire from behind a rock to cover the retreat of the others, at the imminent risk of being cut off himself."

These were the first two of the 14 Tasmanians to be awarded the Victoria Cross and two of the six awarded to Australians during the Second Boer War. After successfully extracting themselves, the overall action was a success. Seven Boers were captured, 100 rifles, 40,000 rounds, two supply wagons and the 350 cattle.

During the action, Bisdee was wounded and, as a result, he was invalided home in December 1900. His arrival back in Tasmania was something of a major event and he was welcomed by crowds at the train station. His, and Wylly's, Victoria Crosses were gazetted in November 1900. Wylly convalesced in Britain and was then commissioned in the South Lancashire Regiment in December 1900. Wylly received his Victoria Cross from King Edward VII on 25 July 1901. Bisdee would receive his in Hobart in August 1902. Once recovered, however, Bisdee reenlisted, this time as a lieutenant in No. 1 Company, 2nd Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen Contingent and set sail for South Africa once more.

This saw Bisdee involved in the third, guerrilla, phase of the war, arriving with 253 men and officers and 289 horses on 24 April 1901. Bisdee continued to serve in South Africa until the end of the war. The Tasmanians joined General John French in the Cape Colony and were in regular contact with various enemy commandos. They then joined Major-General 'Harry' Scobell's column and were then formed into a Flying Column under Colonel Gorringe. They were "incessantly employed" for 12 months according to the official war record. Many of these operations began with long rides at night followed by an attack on a commando the following morning.

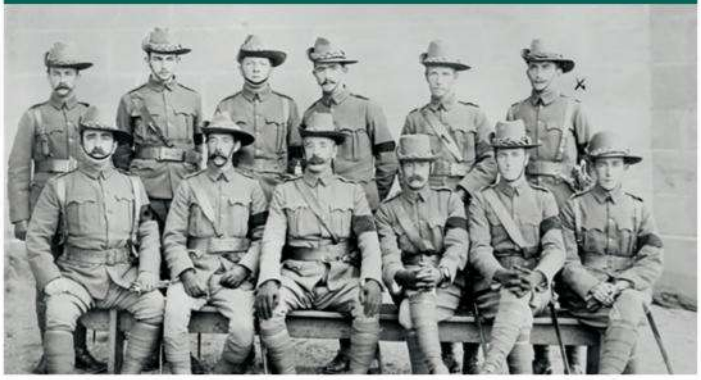
Another Australian mounted contingent's experience can be considered typical. Between August and December 1901, the NSW Mounted Rifles rode 3,000 kilometres and were involved in 13 skirmishes. These resulted in five dead and 19 wounded with 27 Boer dead, 15 wounded and the capture of a further 196. The 2nd Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen Contingent suffered six deaths and 16 injured or otherwise struck off. Bisdee was Mentioned in Despatches during his service with this Contingent. On 22 May 1902 the Contingent embarked at Durban for Hobart, arriving home on 25 June.

John returned to Hutton Park although he was still a celebrity – he received his Victoria Cross from the governor of the state on 11 August, 1902, in honour of the coronation of King Edward VII which had taken place on 9 August.

Bisdee's wedding in Hobart in 1904 was a major state event. He then joined the 12th Australian Light Horse, Tasmanian Mounted Infantry and became the regiment's commanding officer in 1913. In July 1915 he joined the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) as a captain in the 12th Light Horse and departed for Egypt that November. He served in active operations until wounded in 1916 and was promoted, eventually reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was assistant provost marshal in Egypt.

Bisdee was appointed OBE in June 1919. He died at home in Tasmania in 1930.

Images: Alamy, Australian War Memorial, Getty, TopFoto



Portrait of the 2nd Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen taken in 1901 (the black armbands are in memory of Queen Victoria who died in January). Now lieutenant, Bisdee, stands in the back row, far right

These Boers on Spion Kop in January 1900 show both the terrain and enemy John Bisdee faced

Casualties on Spion Kop in January 1900. Improvements in weapons (many of which would remain in service until the Second World War) meant casualties quickly mounted in Boer War encounters

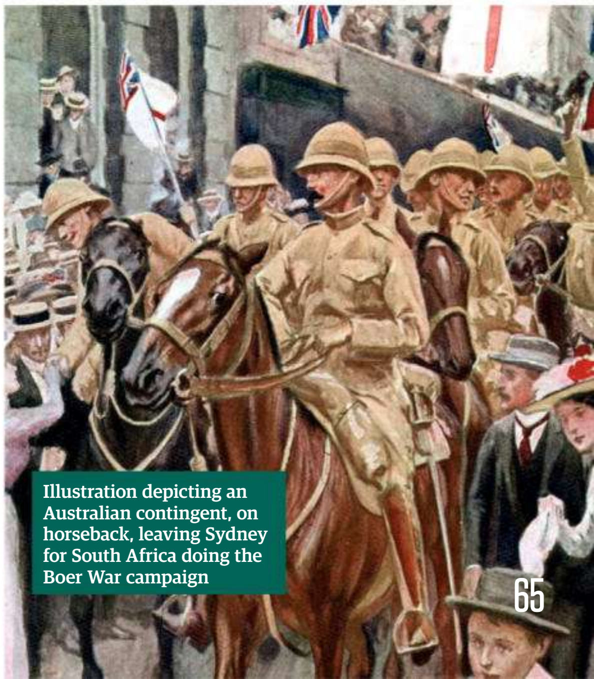


Illustration depicting an Australian contingent, on horseback, leaving Sydney for South Africa doing the Boer War campaign

AUSTRALIA IN WORLD WAR I

As the world went to war, Australians were ready to sign up

Words by Katharine Marsh

The war may have started on the other side of the world, but that didn't stop Australians from wanting to get involved in the First World War. Nearly half a million Australian men enlisted to join the Entente Powers. More than 60,000 of them would lose their lives, and a further 156,000 were wounded, gassed or taken as prisoners of war.

Indigenous Aboriginal Australians also signed up - around 1,000 of them, in fact, out of a population of about 93,000. Aside from patriotism and loyalty to the Federation, another strong incentive was money. Aboriginal soldiers were paid the same as their white counterparts, and they were usually treated as equals. However, it is worth noting that towards the end of the war, many were rejected when they tried to enlist and even during training camps.

Australian support for the British started from day one. When war was declared on 4 August 1914, the Australian leader and the opposition - fighting an election at the time - both declared support for the British. Australia would fight, and everyone was in agreement.

Every facet of Australian defence became embroiled in the conflict. The Australian Naval and Military Expedition Force fought in German New Guinea. The Australian Navy's ship HMAS Sydney destroyed the German SMS Emden. The Australian Imperial Force fought valiantly at Gallipoli. Aussies were also fighting on the Western Front and in the Middle East.

World War I was the first global conflict to see the use of military aeroplanes, and 3,000 Australian airmen were in cockpits in the Middle East and France. Australian women were also helping towards the war effort at home and abroad as nurses, cooks, drivers, interpreters, munitions workers and farm workers. However, they were unable to enlist in the armed forces.

Although far from the front lines, life at home wasn't easy. While mourning lost fathers, brothers and sons, women had to take up the financial burden of raising their families. Germans living in Australia also had to endure a rough ride - they were seen as the enemy and often sent to internment camps.

Members of the 1st Australian Division walk across a duckboard track near Hooge, Ypres, on their way to relieve their comrades

Australian infantry pose in a captured Turkish trench during the Battle of Gallipoli

© WikiImages

HEROES OF THE VICTORIA CROSS

HENRY DALZIEL

World War I: Battle of Hamel, 4 July 1918

Words by Steve Wright

When we talk about World War I, the focus seems predominantly on the battles of attrition fought between the British and German forces. We hear so much about the individual stories that it's easy to forget the roles that troops of other nationalities took on in the fighting.

One such individual whose story stands out is Australian Henry Dalziel. Born in the small mining community of Irvinebank, Queensland on 18 February 1893, Dalziel lived the life of a miner from a young age. He and his brother Victor were just children when they were credited with the discovery of a profitable abundance of tin samples - leading to the establishment of a mine that remained in operation until the 1960s. Prior to the completion of his education, he worked as an apprentice fireman, before encountering the event that would change his life.

Britain's entry into the war in August 1914 automatically meant the involvement of the entirety of its empire - including Australia. Over 416,000 Australians volunteered to fight during the course of the war, with Dalziel being among the earliest to go. Having enlisted as a private in the Australian Imperial Force on 16 January 1915, he was posted as part of a wave of reinforcements for the 15th Battalion, which was stationed in Gallipoli, Turkey. It was here that he, like many others, would discover the horror of war first hand.

The Australian Imperial Force joined with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force to form the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) for the Gallipoli Campaign, fighting alongside the British and French forces, among others. Despite this show of strength, the campaign was plagued by disaster right from the start. Facing a well-drilled Ottoman army and hampered by bad luck and numerous tactical blunders, the Allies suffered terrible losses, with the ANZAC forces alone taking a loss of 36,000 casualties.

For valour

The Victoria Cross (VC) is the highest military honour awarded to service men and women in the Commonwealth. It is awarded for valour in the face of the enemy and can be given to anyone under military command.

Why did he win it?

For the utmost bravery and dedication to duty while serving for the Australian forces in World War I, in the process truly going above and beyond his duty while ensuring the success of his mission.

Where was the battle?

Le Hamel, Somme, France

When did it take place?

4 July 1918

When was he awarded the Cross?

13 December 1918

What was the popular reaction?

News of his citation for the Victoria Cross was published in the 17 August 1918 edition of the London Gazette. Upon his return to Australia, he was reported as having received a hero's welcome from every train station on the way back home.

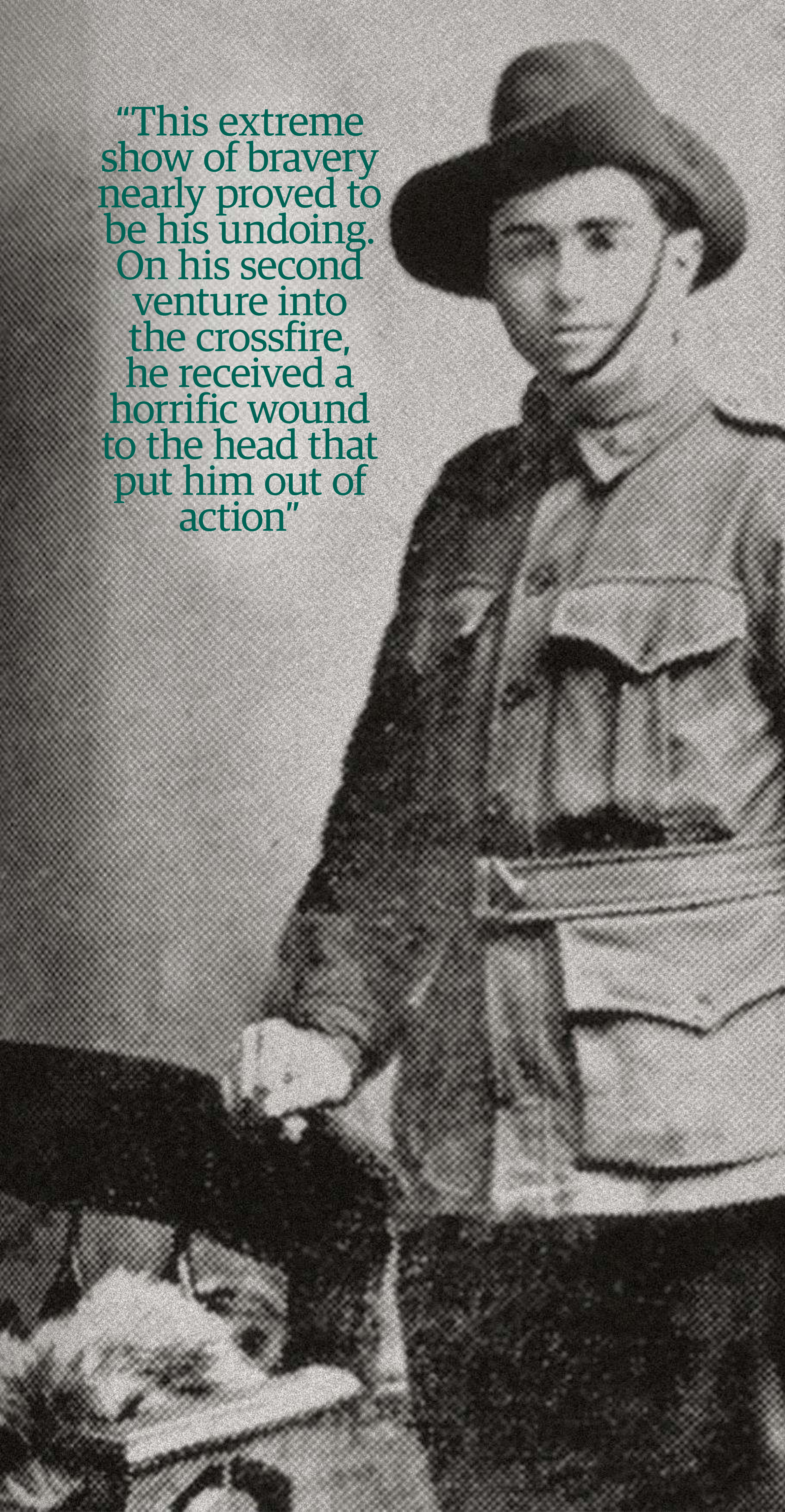
It was into this mess that Dalziel arrived in July 1915 as part of 500 reinforcements for the 15th Battalion. Having originally numbered over 1,000 men, the Battalion's strength had fallen to under 600. The entire unit was eventually replaced and restored to around 720.

Dalziel would continue to fight for the 15th Battalion throughout the Gallipoli Campaign serving as a machine gunner, for which he earned the nickname 'Two Gun Harry'. The most notable skirmish he was involved in was the Battle of Sari Bair in August 1915, which marked the British forces' final attempt to take control of the Gallipoli peninsula. Like other attempts before it, this would result in massive casualties, and it didn't come as a surprise when the whole costly operation was curtailed.

Before this, however, Dalziel's Gallipoli Campaign was to end early. Having developed rheumatism, he was evacuated to a hospital in Egypt, before being sent to London General Hospital, England, to recover. As it turned out, he didn't miss much of the campaign, and with military operations being ceased soon after, the ANZAC forces themselves were transported to Egypt to recuperate. It soon became a case of 'out of one frying pan, into another' though, as they were pointed in the direction of the dreaded Western Front.

Dalziel returned to battle in France on 14 August, just in time to serve in the Battles

"This extreme show of bravery nearly proved to be his undoing. On his second venture into the crossfire, he received a horrific wound to the head that put him out of action"



ANZAC troops charging a Turkish trench during the Dardanelles campaign

“His bravery and devotion to duty was an inspiring example to all his comrades and his [...] unselfish courage [...] saved many lives”

of the Somme – one of the bloodiest series of exchanges to take place on the Western Front. Serving as both a driver and gunner, he participated in the engagements at Mouquet Farm, Pozieres, Flers and Gueudecourt. All in all the combined Allied forces suffered over 623,000 casualties – yet Dalziel survived.

As the war progressed, Dalziel was to find himself involved with some of the most-renowned skirmishes on the Western Front: first fighting at the Battle of Messines in June 1917, and later the Battle of Passchendaele of 1918. It was here that Dalziel would incur his second battle-inflicted hospitalisation. On 16 October, he was wounded in the leg by shrapnel in Polygon Wood, and again sent to England to rest and recuperate. Returning to France in June 1918, his life was soon to change again – he had survived the hell of Gallipoli and the swampy oblivion of the Somme and Passchendaele, but the moment that was to define him would actually take place at one of the War's most-overshadowed moments.

On 4 July 1918, a combined attack by the Australian Corps and American forces was launched against German positions around the town of Le Hamel in France. The tactic of the ‘creeping barrage’ – artillery fire taking place ahead of attacks by infantry units – was mostly successful, but not everything went to plan. In some areas the artillery fire fell short, leaving the German forces free to assault the attackers with their heavy-duty Maxim guns.

CITATION FOR VICTORIA CROSS

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when in action with a Lewis gun section. His company met with determined resistance from a strong point which was strongly garrisoned, manned by numerous machine-guns and, undamaged by our artillery fire, was also protected by strong wire entanglements. A heavy concentration of machine-gun fire caused many casualties, and held up our advance. His Lewis gun having come into action and silenced enemy guns in one direction, an enemy gun opened fire from another direction. Private Dalziel dashed at it and with his revolver, killed or captured the entire crew and gun, and allowed our advance to continue. He was severely wounded in the hand, but carried on and took part in the capture of the final objective.

He twice went over open ground under heavy enemy artillery and machine-gun fire to secure ammunition, and though suffering from considerable loss of blood, he filled magazines and served his gun until severely wounded through the head. His bravery and devotion to duty was an inspiring example to all his comrades and his dash and unselfish courage at a critical time undoubtedly saved many lives and turned what would have been a serious check into a splendid success.

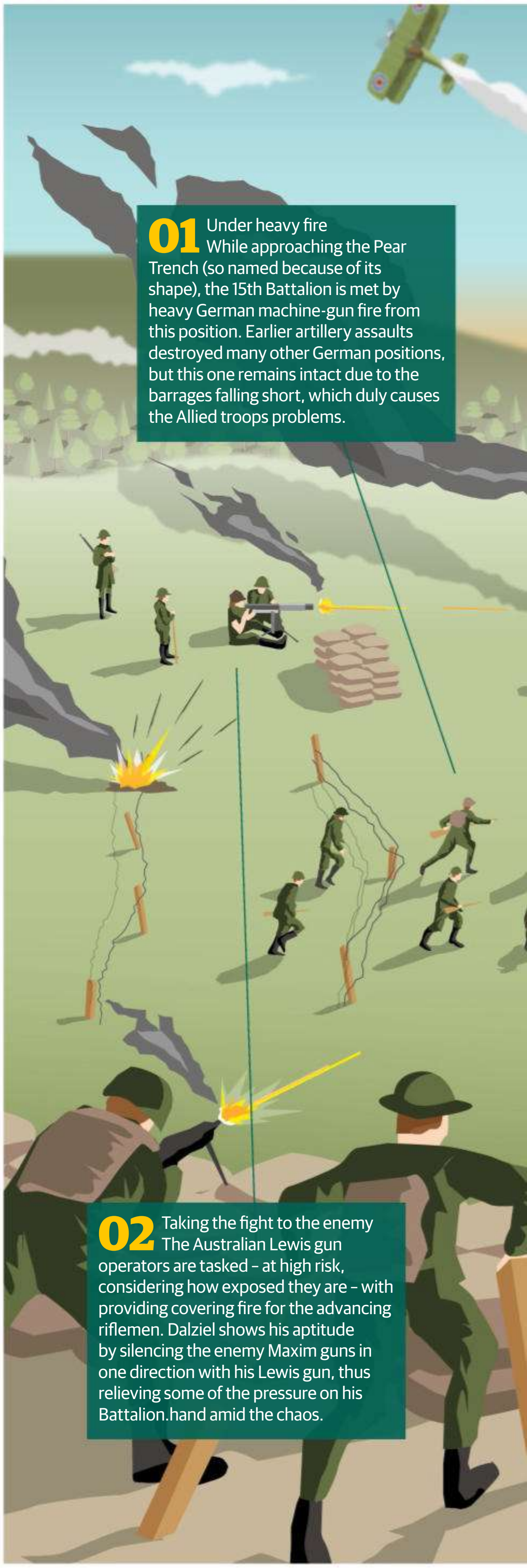
It was in this manner that Dalziel's 15th Battalion would come under sustained assault. With dogged bravery Dalziel sprung into action, first silencing machine-gun fire from one direction with his Lewis gun, then charging towards another to take it out, along with its two-man crew. Free from harassing fire, his company could now advance.

Dalziel participated in the main assault along with the rest of his Battalion, which was heading south towards the village of Hamel via Hamel Wood. Despite receiving an injury to his hand, he carried on assisting by gathering as much ammunition as he could – putting himself under heavy fire in the process.

This extreme show of bravery nearly proved to be his undoing. On his second venture into the crossfire, his horrific head wound put him out of action. Regardless, he had helped his side achieve their target: they had won.

Dalziel's head wound was so severe that brain was visible, and to many it looked like he wouldn't make it. Demonstrating the kind of fortitude that had enabled him to survive one of the bloodiest conflicts the world had ever seen, Dalziel survived, although his recovery process would be a long and arduous one. After emergency surgery in Rouen, he was moved to hospital in England. It was here that he stayed until the end of the war, before being discharged and finally returning to Australia on 7 March 1919.

The 1,000th man to be awarded the Victoria Cross, Dalziel lived a varied life after the war. He married twice (he had three children with his second wife), and his work involved tending an apple orchard, farming, factory work and gold prospecting. He would eventually return to the military, serving as a sergeant in the Citizen Military Forces from 1933 onwards, and even re-enlisting for World War II (although he did not serve abroad. Instead he was charged with assisting recruitment and funding drives). After suffering from a stroke, Henry Dalziel died on 24 July 1965 at the Greenslope Repatriation Hospital in Brisbane. A true hero of the Victoria Cross, his story will never be forgotten.

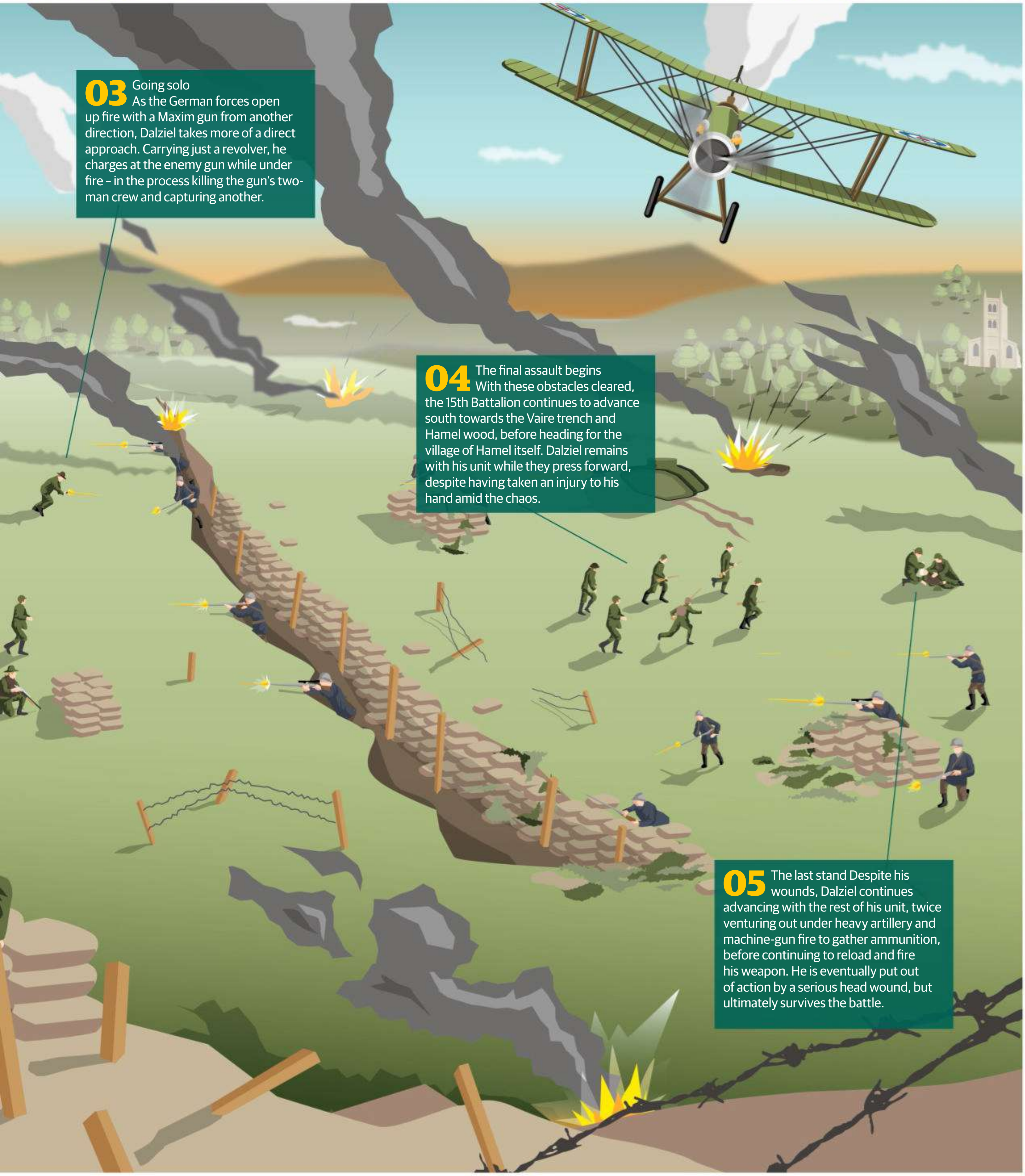


01 Under heavy fire

While approaching the Pear Trench (so named because of its shape), the 15th Battalion is met by heavy German machine-gun fire from this position. Earlier artillery assaults destroyed many other German positions, but this one remains intact due to the barrages falling short, which duly causes the Allied troops problems.

02 Taking the fight to the enemy

The Australian Lewis gun operators are tasked – at high risk, considering how exposed they are – with providing covering fire for the advancing riflemen. Dalziel shows his aptitude by silencing the enemy Maxim guns in one direction with his Lewis gun, thus relieving some of the pressure on his Battalion.hand amid the chaos.



03 Going solo
As the German forces open up fire with a Maxim gun from another direction, Dalziel takes more of a direct approach. Carrying just a revolver, he charges at the enemy gun while under fire – in the process killing the gun's two-man crew and capturing another.

04 The final assault begins
With these obstacles cleared, the 15th Battalion continues to advance south towards the Vaire trench and Hamel wood, before heading for the village of Hamel itself. Dalziel remains with his unit while they press forward, despite having taken an injury to his hand amid the chaos.

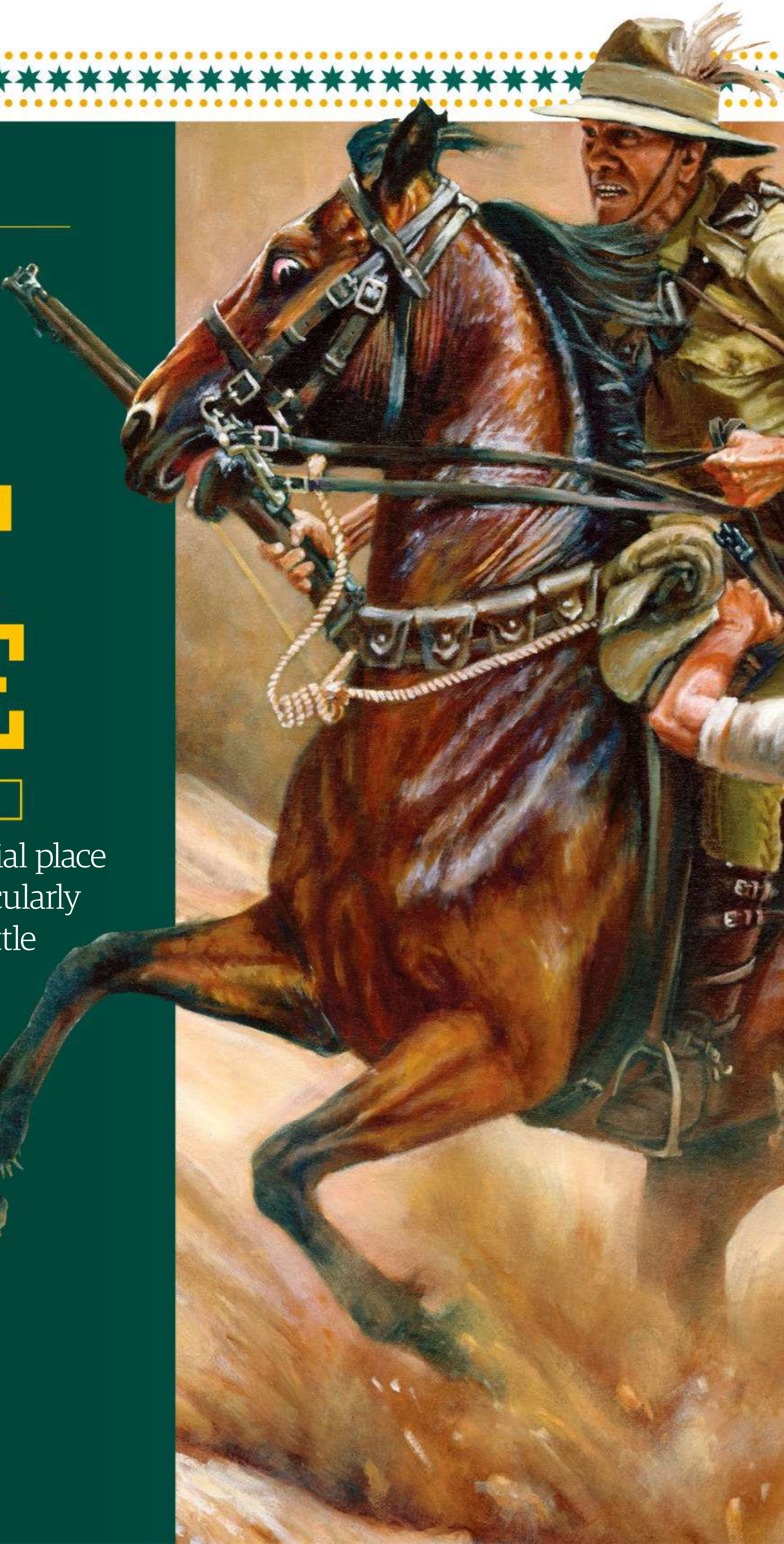
05 The last stand Despite his wounds, Dalziel continues advancing with the rest of his unit, twice venturing out under heavy artillery and machine-gun fire to gather ammunition, before continuing to reload and fire his weapon. He is eventually put out of action by a serious head wound, but ultimately survives the battle.

Ed Crooks

CHARGE OF THE LIGHT HORSE

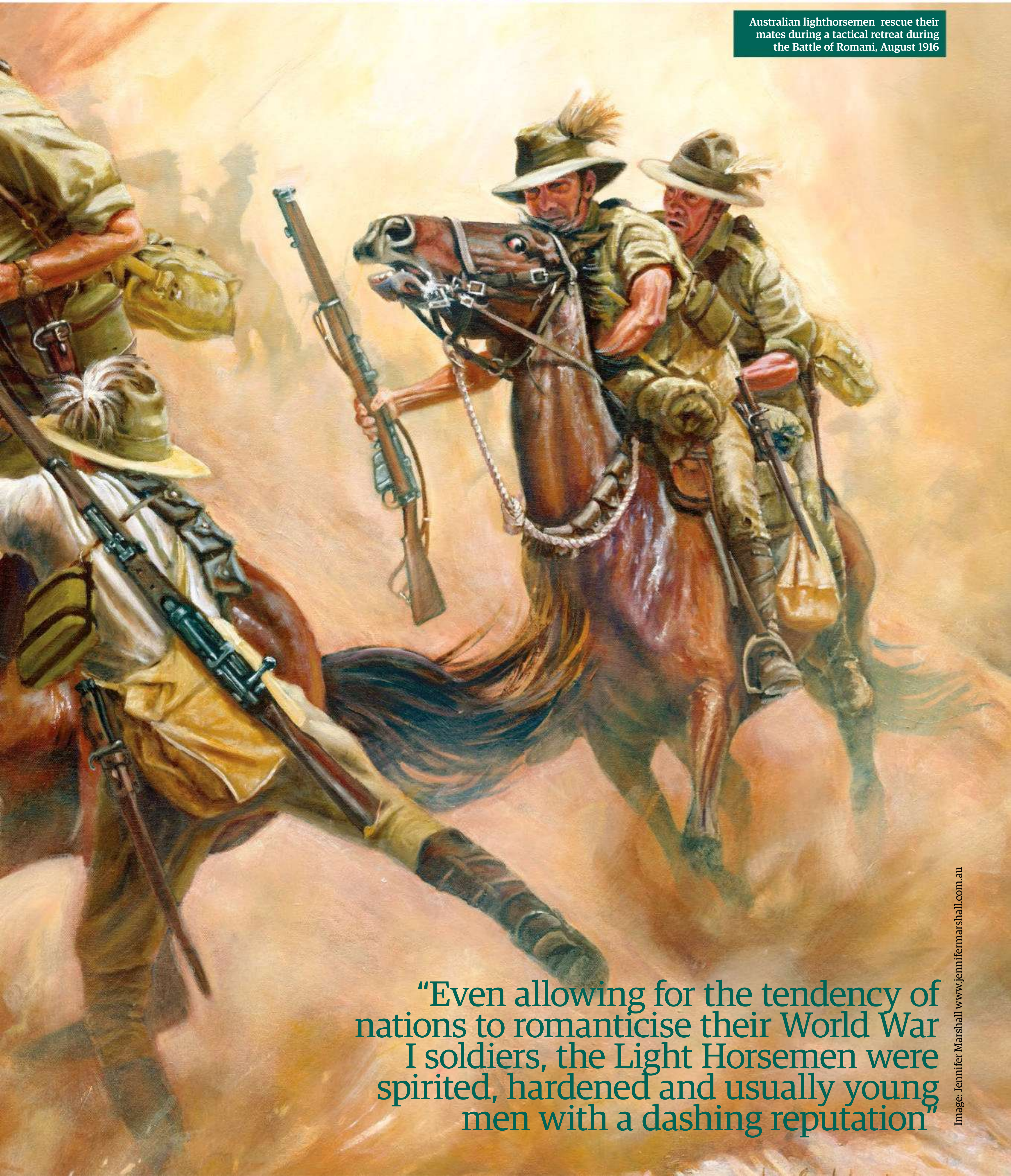
Words by Stuart Hadaway

The Light Horse have a special place in Australian history, particularly feted for their role in the Battle of Beersheba



The Australian Light Horse formed at the outbreak of World War I as part of the Australian Imperial Force destined to fight in Europe. The majority of the Light Horsemen came from the vast, hot and arid rural regions in Australia. Horsemanship, and often marksmanship, was learned from childhood and was for many an essential skill for their daily lives and work.

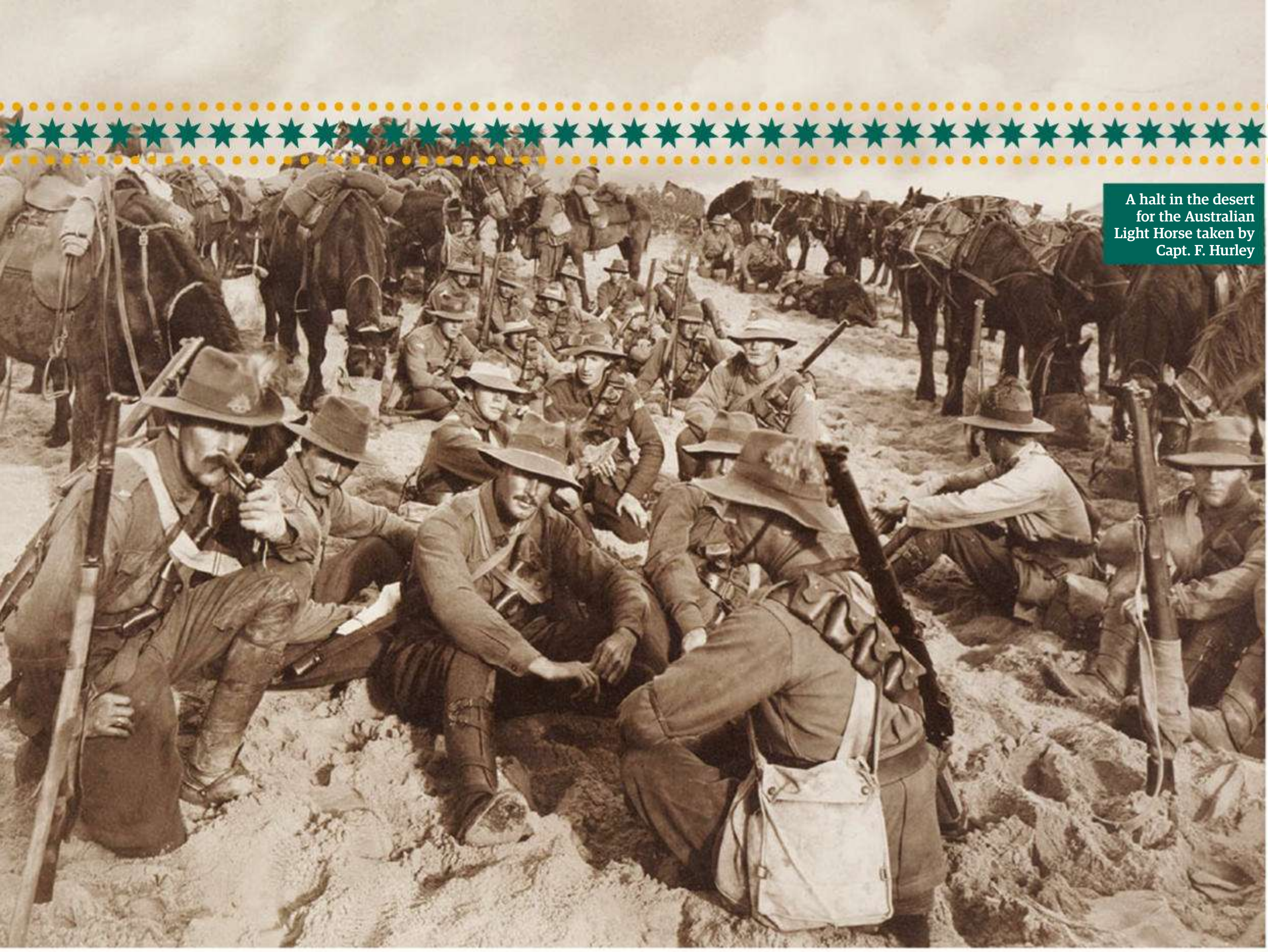
Two of the country's official historians, Charles Bean and Henry Gullett, enthused about the Light Horsemen, one describing them as, "the romantic, quixotic, adventurous flotsam that eddied on the surface of the Australian people". The other noted that nearly all were of British descent and were "the children of the most restless, adventurous and virile individuals of that stock". Even allowing for



Australian lighthorsemen rescue their mates during a tactical retreat during the Battle of Romani, August 1916

"Even allowing for the tendency of nations to romanticise their World War I soldiers, the Light Horsemen were spirited, hardened and usually young men with a dashing reputation"

Image: Jennifer Marshall www.jennifermarshall.com.au


A halt in the desert for the Australian Light Horse taken by Capt. F. Hurley

> “The Light Horsemen prized their mounts: many had brought their own horses with them when joining up”

the tendency of nations to romanticise their World War I soldiers, the Light Horsemen were spirited, hardened and usually young men with a dashing reputation. With a leavening of Boer War veterans, they had the makings of formidable troops.

Their baptism of fire came at Gallipoli. After training in Egypt, they were committed in May 1915 as reinforcements to the landings that were meant to open the way to Constantinople and knock the Ottoman Empire out of the war. Instead, the light horse faced seven months of hard service in squalid trenches under appalling conditions, fighting several costly actions – most famously the attack on ‘The Nek’ on 7 August 1915.

As the campaign ended, they were withdrawn to Egypt to be joyously reunited with their horses. The Light Horsemen prized their mounts: many had brought their own horses with them when joining up. The bonds were close, and these relationships would be the source of comfort and dismay in the years ahead as both riders and mounts suffered in a variety of inhospitable environments.

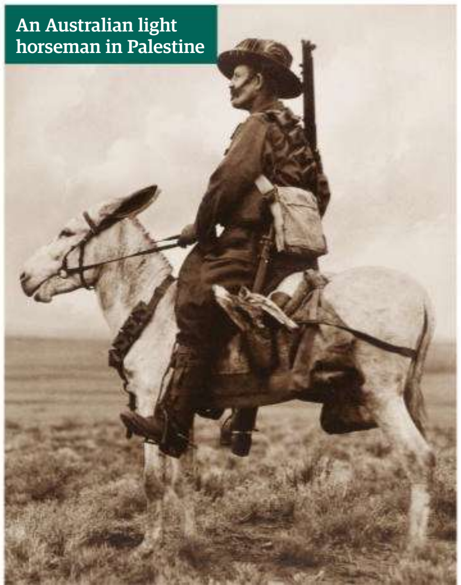
While the Australian infantry were sent to France after Gallipoli, the three light horse brigades joined the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF). Their task was to defend the Suez Canal, the vital strategic waterway linking the raw resources of the east with Britain’s factories.

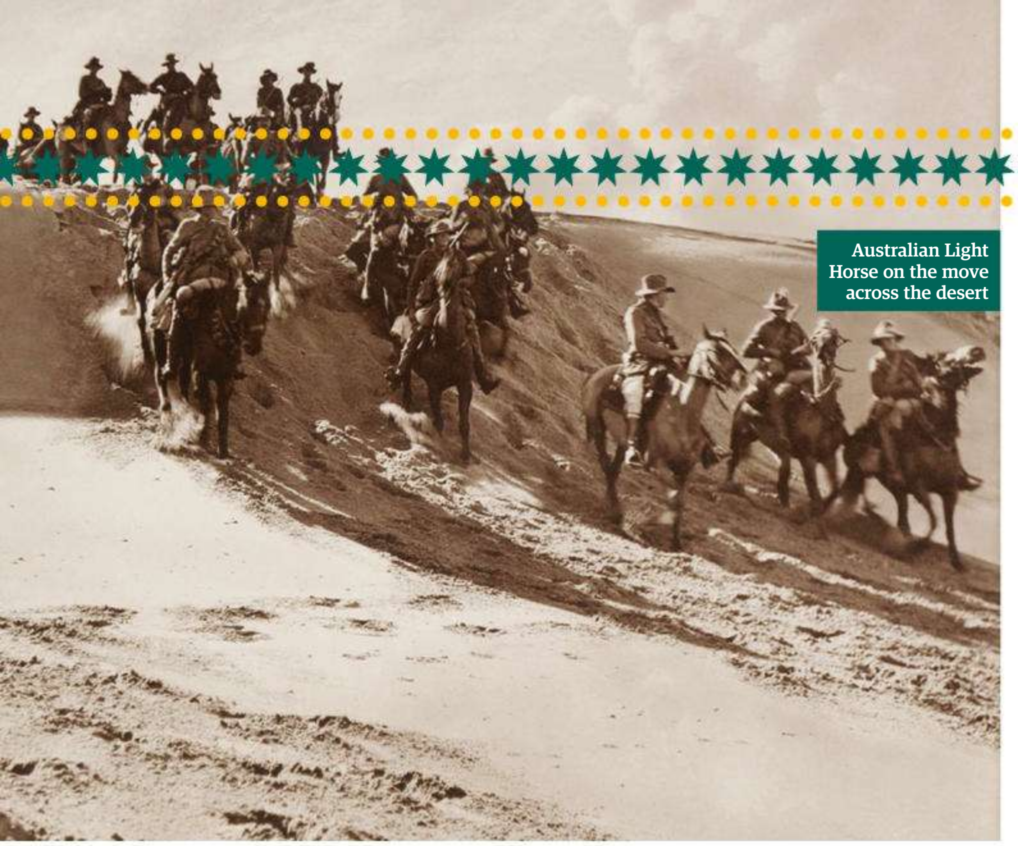
This was important work and vital to the war effort. The Ottomans had tried to cut the canal in February 1915 and would doubtless try again, but for the men and animals spending weary, monotonous months in desert outposts the task slowly dulled their spirits. Some Light Horsemen attempted to get to France where the ‘real’ war was, but those who stayed would soon find all the action they could wish for.

Sinai Desert

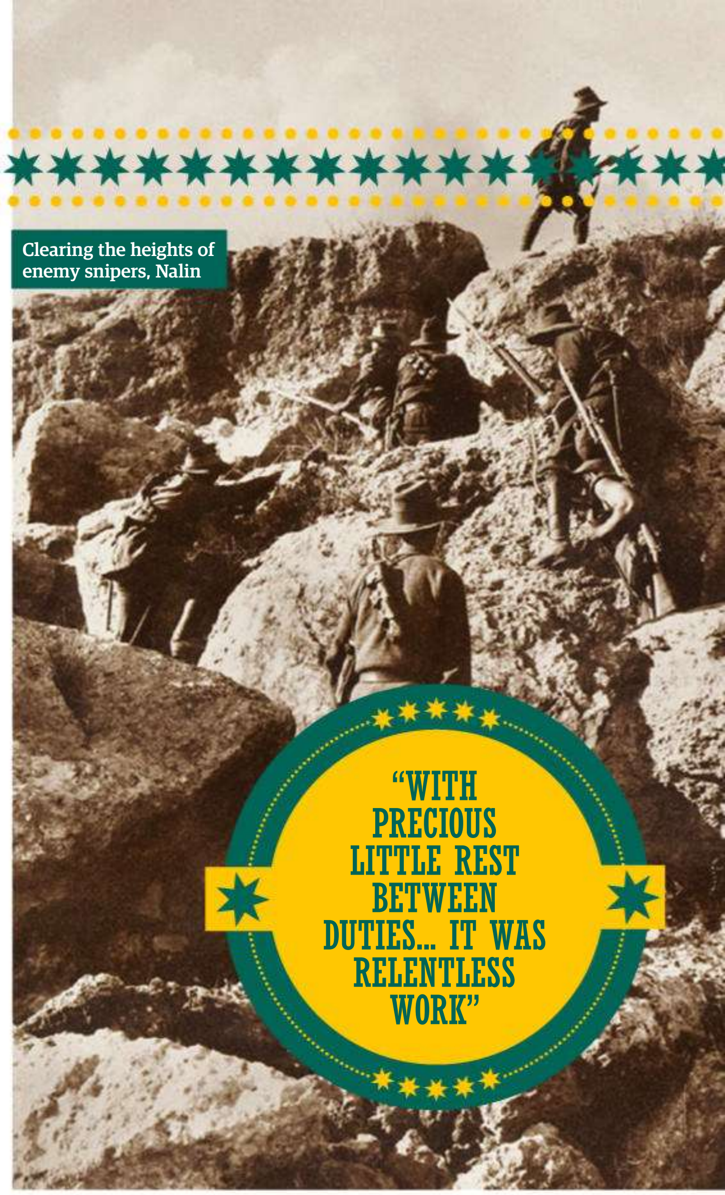
In April 1916 the Ottomans again attacked the Suez Canal. After their defeat, the Australian Light Horse and the New Zealand Mounted Rifles (NZMR) led the EEF into the desert. The British dug in around Romani, while a railway and pipeline were slowly built eastwards to keep them supplied. From here, two brigades of light horse and NZMR patrolled deeply and aggressively into the desert, where a much larger Ottoman force was gathering for a third attempt on the Suez Canal.

The Australians were already partially conditioned to the environment and proved adept at this small war of scouting, skirmishing and ambushing. They maintained a punishing routine, with each brigade spending a long day out on patrol, followed by a day on picket


An Australian light horseman in Palestine



Australian Light Horse on the move across the desert



Clearing the heights of enemy snipers, Nalin

16-inch Krupp gun at Kilid Bahr Fort, Dardanelles

Light horsemen with a captured enemy artillery gun in the Wady Shunet Nimrin, Jordan

Australian Light Horse watering in the desert

> "WITH PRECIOUS LITTLE REST BETWEEN DUTIES… IT WAS RELENTLESS WORK"

duty in the sand dunes south of Romani. With precious little rest between duties, strictly limited water and the burning Sinai summer, it was relentless work under the most difficult of conditions.

The Ottoman attack on Romani on 3 August 1916 ran straight into a carefully prepared British trap. The Australians held a picket line with no prepared positions or barbed wire that might warn the enemy of their presence, and when the Ottomans stumbled into them they conducted a fighting retreat at night while in close contact with vastly superior numbers. The Australians had earned a wild and disorderly reputation in Egypt, but their performance that night was an incredible display of disciplined fighting efficiency. Although confusion was inevitable, control was never lost and the retreat was a complete success as it drew the enemy in. Having fought all night, the Australians (and New Zealanders) then held a new line through the day, before a counterattack of British and New Zealand mounted troops swept in on the Ottomans' exposed flank.

The EEF pushed the Ottomans back across the Sinai, with the mounted troops leading the way. At the end of the year the Australian Light Horse, British Yeomanry, NZMR and Imperial Camel Corps (ICC) mounted large-scale raids against the last two major Ottoman garrisons in the Sinai, at El Magdhaba and El Magruntein.

These two actions showed both the strengths and weaknesses of the mounted troops. The mobility allowed them to strike at night with complete surprise, but their lack of numbers made breaking through the enemy's defences difficult. The horses also provided a major time constraint: they could only go so long without water. Operations had to succeed within a very set timeline. In both raids orders were actually issued to break off the attack just before the final success was achieved. At El Magdhaba Lieutenant Colonel Charles Cox, commanding First Light Horse Brigade, thrust the order back at the messenger, declaring, "Take that damned thing away, and let me see it for the first time in half an hour." Within minutes, a bayonet charge by his brigade broke through the Ottoman lines. At El Magruntein it was the New Zealanders and the ICC who made the final charge before the withdrawal order could reach them.

Gaza

With the Sinai secure, several months were spent on the border with Palestine patrolling and building up logistics. In March 1917 the advance was resumed, with Gaza to be their next objective.

The first attempt on the town on 26-27 March 1917 was a fiasco. Poor planning and communications doomed the attack, and although the objectives were taken at the end of the day, the weary troops were immediately ordered to withdraw from them. The British mounted divisions had spent the day screening Gaza to the north and east, but in the afternoon the Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division had been ordered to attack the city from the north. They swept into the town, but spread out in an urban environment with night falling and Ottoman reinforcements arriving, they were ordered to retreat before they were cut off and overwhelmed.

The Second Battle of Gaza in April also ended in failure. The EEF was better prepared, but so were the Ottomans. They were exceptional defensive soldiers and had dug in deeper and over a wider area, and the infantry attacks failed to penetrate. The mounted troops were on the eastern flank, pinning down Ottoman forces and blocking any counterattacks being launched from Beersheba.

The EEF now settled down to a summer on the Gaza-Beersheba line. For the mounted troops this meant holding outposts on the desert flank and a return to the cat-and-mouse games of patrolling and raiding, ambushing and

The First Brigade, Australian Light Horse, passing through Bethlehem on its way to Jericho

Trooper Finnichie and his mates, Second Brigade, Sixth Light Horse

skirmishing that they had played the previous summer. Only in October 1917, reinforced and with General Sir Edmund Allenby installed as the new commander, did the EEF make a third attempt to break into Palestine.

Glory at Beersheba

Instead of attacking the enemy's main strength at Gaza, the initial objective was to be Beersheba at the eastern end of the line. From here, the Ottoman line could be cut off from behind and rolled up from the flank. But taking Beersheba on the first day was crucial. Despite incredible efforts to develop water sources on the desert flank, such a large force – consisting of the infantry of XX Corps and the horsemen of the Desert Mounted Corps (DMC) – could only be sustained for a single day. Unless Beersheba and its large wells fell, the whole offensive might have to be called off.

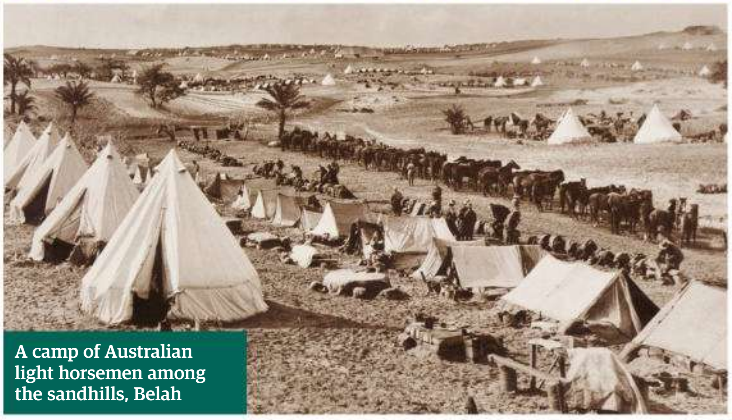
The attack was launched on 31 October 1917 and progressed slowly due to the conditions and distances faced by the troops. The infantry of XX Corps attacked the Ottoman defences southwest of Gaza, while the DMC did the same from the southeast, and Light Horsemen also cut the road to Hebron to the north. By 4pm the Ottomans were in retreat, leaving a rear guard holding off the pursuit south of Beersheba. However, it was imperative to get troops into the town to secure the wells before the Ottomans could demolish them. Speed was needed, and the closest mounted troops were the Fourth Light Horse Brigade.

The DMC's commander, General Harry Chauvel, called up the Australian Light Horse and ordered them to storm the town. At 4.40pm they formed up with Fourth Regiment on the right, 12th Regiment on the left and 11th Regiment behind as a reserve. The lines of Light Horsemen drew their bayonets to use as swords and began their advance. Ahead of them 200 Ottoman infantry, supported by machine guns and field artillery, manned a crescent-shaped trench system, though without the added protection of barbed wire.

The Light Horsemen started slowly, keeping the formation tight for maximum impact, but steadily sped up until launching into a gallop over the last few hundred metres. This speed was a lifesaver, as the horsemen closed the gap

Light Horsemen observing Hill 1179 at Esdud, Israel

"THIS SPEED WAS A LIFESAVER, AS THE HORSEMEN CLOSED THE GAP"


A camp of Australian light horsemen among the sandhills, Belah

Australian Light Horse machine gunners in action among the Judaean Hills

faster than the defenders could adjust the sights on their weapons, making many bullets and shells fly too high to affect the charging men and horses.

Sergeant Charles Doherty, who charged with 12th ALH, described the moment: "As the long line with the 12th... swung into position, the rattle from enemy musketry gradually increased... After progressing about three quarters of a mile [1.2 kilometres] our pace became terrific – we were galloping towards a strongly held, crescent shaped redoubt... In face of this intense fire, which now included frequent salvos from field artillery, the now maddened horses, straining their hearts to bursting point, had to cross cavernous wadies [ravines] whose precipitous banks seemed to defy our progress. The crescent redoubt – like a long, sinuous, smoking serpent – was taking a fearful toll of men and horses, but the line remained unwavering and resolute. As we neared the trenches that were belching forth death, horse and rider steeled themselves for the plunge over excavated pitfalls and through that tearing rain of lead."

While the Fourth Regiment became embroiled in clearing the trenches, the majority of the 12th Regiment managed to sweep into the town. Taking the Ottomans by surprise, most of the wells and their machinery were seized intact. Other charges would be made in the campaign, no less dramatic and often against greater odds, but there were none upon which so much depended. Failure could have led to the entire offensive being called off and would have been another demoralising failure at what was already a very dark time of the war.

After the fall of Beersheba the EEF began an advance that would finish north of Jaffa and Jerusalem by the end of the year. The Australian Light Horse played a role in the advance, scouting ahead of the army and dislodging rear guards and later helping to blunt a major counterattack at Balin. It was a punishing pace of operations, and it took a heavy toll on horses and men alike.

1918

In 1918 the Light Horsemen served in the heat and oppressive atmosphere of the Jordan Valley and took part in the two large-scale raids towards Es Salt and Amman. These both failed due to weather, terrain and unexpectedly tough Ottoman resistance. In September 1918 the EEF achieved another breakthrough, shattering the Ottoman armies in Palestine in the Battle of Megiddo. In the ensuing advance into Syria, the light horse regiments were often at the fore.

The pace of the advance left the infantry behind, and the mounted troops bore the brunt. Light Horsemen rounded up thousands of prisoners as the enemy collapsed and shattered any pockets of resistance they encountered. They were the first to enter Damascus on 1 October 1918 but left again within hours to continue the pursuit. By the time the Ottoman Empire signed an armistice on 30 October 1918, the cavalry had advanced 500 kilometres (300 miles) in just six weeks, and the Light Horsemen had entered Australian legend.

CAVALRY OR INFANTRY?

In 1917 the EEF's mounted troops consisted of 16 regiments of British Yeomanry, 12 of Australian Light Horse, three of New Zealand Mounted Riflemen and three of Indian Lancers. Only the Indians were actual cavalry, and the rest were in fact mounted riflemen.

Mounted rifles were organised as cavalry but fought as infantry. Each regiment had three squadrons of around 150 men, broken into four troops, plus machine gun and signalling sections, to make a total of around 500 officers and men. However, although they rode into action, they would dismount to fight on foot, with one man in four holding the horses for the others. This gave the regiments a comparatively weak front line, but they made up for this limitation with mobility and surprise. Initially, only the British Yeomanry carried swords or were trained to use them, but in August 1918 they were issued to the other nationalities too. Despite being apparently out-dated on a modern battlefield, the nature of the war in Palestine was suited to such shock actions and several successful charges were made during the 1917 campaign.

Meanwhile, the Imperial Camel Corps were mounted infantry, and each battalion of about 770 men contained four companies, organised into platoons. The four battalions of ICC consisted of 18 companies, of which ten were drawn from the ranks of the Australian Light Horse.

Mounted riflemen, Yeomanry and Australian Light Horsemen: the primary mounted forces of the EEF

Light horsemen and Indian cavalry round up Ottoman prisoners in late 1918. Some of the Light horsemen carry their swords

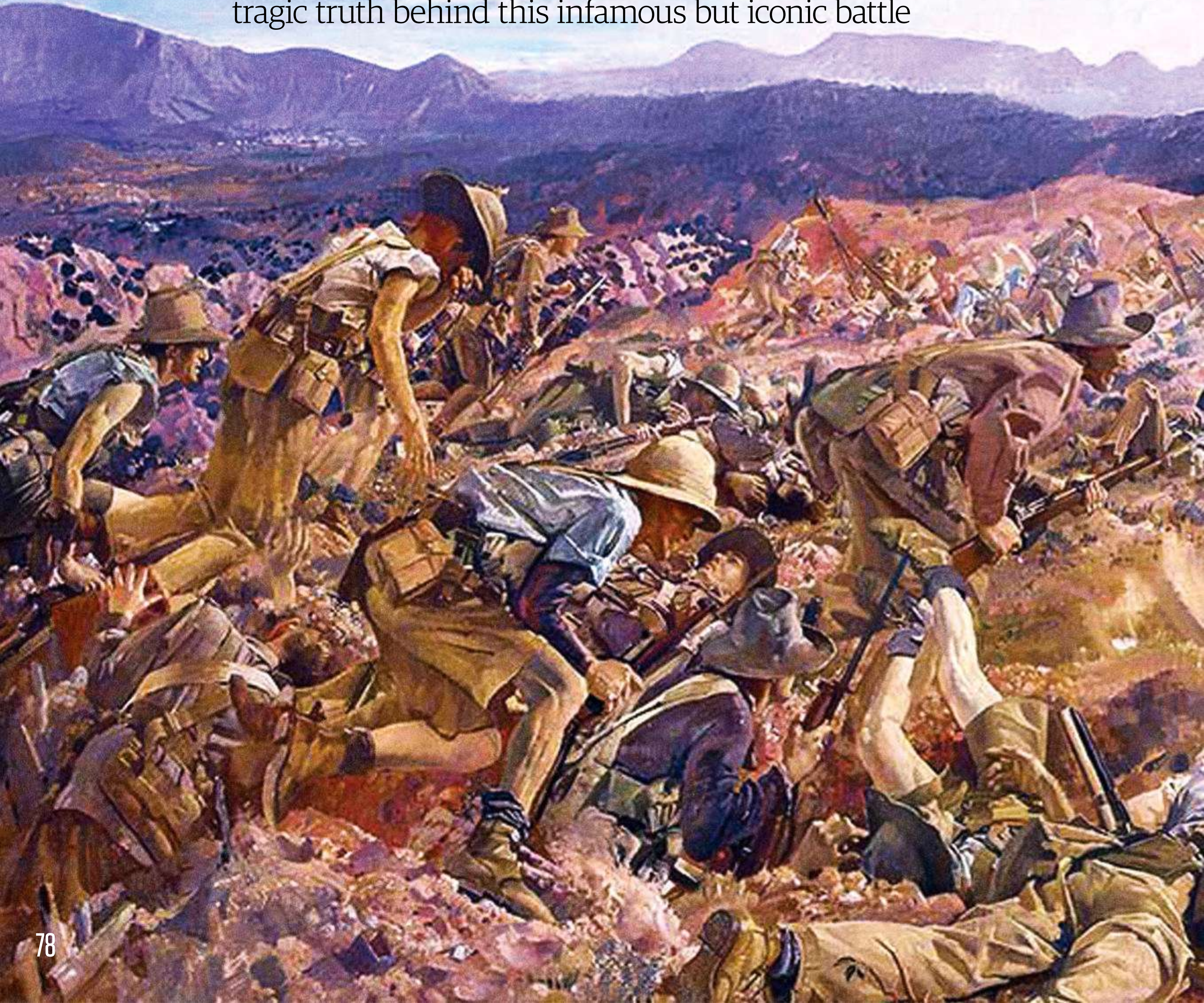
> "Although they rode into action, they would dismount to fight on foot"

Images: Capt. F. Hurley, Lieut P. V. Ryan, State Library of Queensland, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

CHARGE AT THE NEK

‘NOTHING BUT BLOODY MURDER’

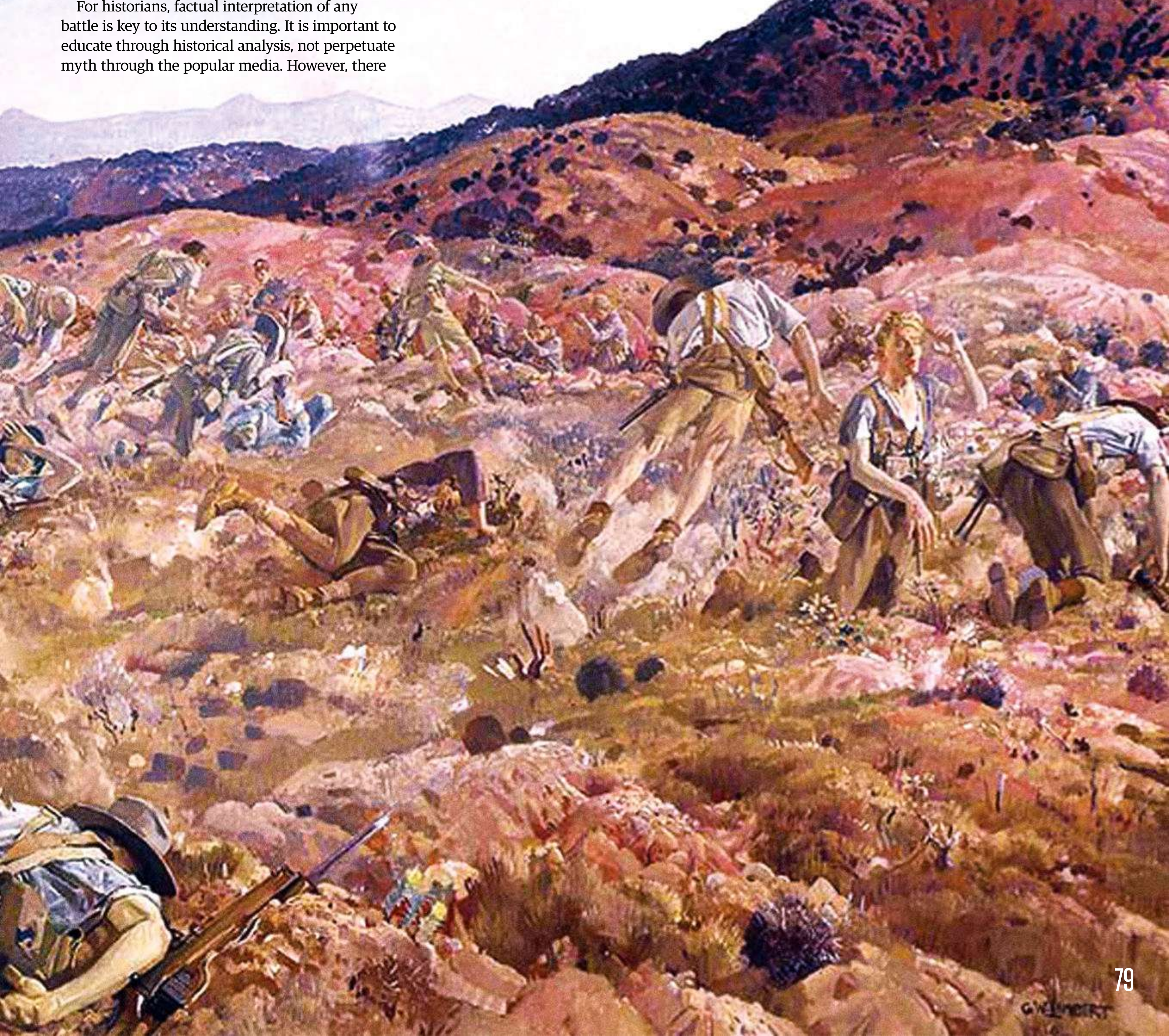
Author, historian and battlefield guide Stephen Chambers explores how myth-making and nationalism have obscured the tragic truth behind this infamous but iconic battle



The Battle of Beersheba on 31 October 1917, with its dramatic mounted charge of two Australian light horse regiments, has become a tool for national self-congratulation and myth-making in its centenary year. Australians should be rightfully proud of this momentous charge, but also cautious of media claims that their countrymen's role at Beersheba turned the tide of the Palestine campaign and that it was the last great cavalry charge in history. Both of these are somewhat outlandish claims but are nothing new – we heard similar for the anniversary of the Australian attack at Fromelles in 2016, airbrushing the British contribution completely, and earlier in 2015 during the Gallipoli centenary commemorations.

For historians, factual interpretation of any battle is key to its understanding. It is important to educate through historical analysis, not perpetuate myth through the popular media. However, there is one place where myth is greater than events, and that is Gallipoli. Few other places invoke the utter despair, futility and courage of war like this battlefield, and one event in particular is the tragic charge of the Australian Light Horse at The Nek on 7 August 1915. Looking into the collapsing Anzac trenches that still remain today, it is difficult to comprehend what it must have been like for the hundreds of frightened young men who lined up in waves. Without hesitation, these brave soldiers followed their orders knowing that they would charge into almost certain death.

The Nek, a narrow bridge of land that stretched between 'Russell's Top' and 'Baby 700', was a vitally important position in the Anzac sector. It was a perfect bottleneck that was easy to defend. Several well-sited machine guns and rows of Turkish trenches that spread up onto the slopes of Baby 700 made this position all but impregnable. The Nek attack was just one part of the August Offensive, a series of assaults planned to break the deadlock at Gallipoli, where Australian, New Zealand, British and French troops had been stalled since their landing in April 1915. The attack at The Nek was planned as a diversion in support of the New Zealand assault from Chunuk Bair, an objective that had to be captured during the



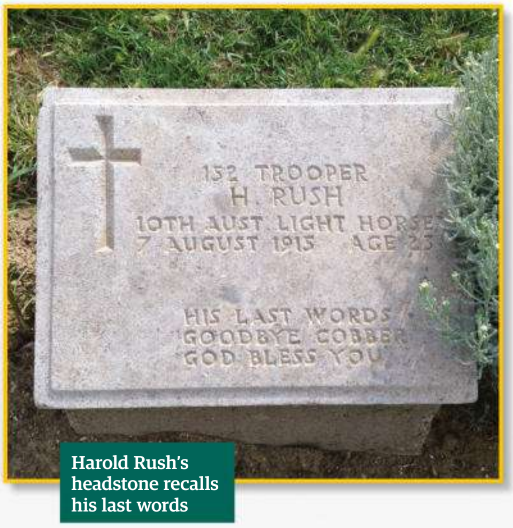
night. While the Australians were to attack across The Nek to Baby 700, the New Zealanders would descend down from the heights above Baby 700, catching the Turks in a pincer movement.

The Third Australian Light Horse Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General Frederic Godfrey Hughes, was chosen to assault The Nek. The brigade was made up of the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Light Horse Regiments, who had landed at Gallipoli in May 1915 as dismounted infantry, leaving their horses back in Egypt. Follow a huge bombardment, the attack the attack was due to commence at 4.30am, on 7 August 1915. The frontage of the attack was 80 metres (262 feet) wide, which restricted each of the four waves to 150 men each. Each of these waves would advance two minutes apart to the first line of Turkish trenches only 27 metres (89 feet) away.

Unfortunately, it was clear on the morning of the attack that the preconditions for the assault had failed to occur: the New Zealander attack was held up, so Chunuk Bair had not been captured, and Turkish machine guns that flanked The Nek at a position named 'German Officers' Trench' had also not been captured during that night. Despite this, senior Anzac command ordered that the attack was to proceed, but this time the Light Horsemen would support the New Zealander attack on Chunuk Bair, and not the other way around as originally intended. This change of situation did not bode well for the Australians.

Even worse, the bombardment appeared to end seven minutes early, at 4.23am. The reason for this was later found to be a mistake with the synchronising of watches between the artillery officer and the officers of Third Light Horse Brigade. This error meant that the Turks had ample time to man their trenches, knowing an assault was coming. In addition, the neighbouring assaults by the First and Second Light Horse Brigades on positions known as the Chessboard and Quinn's Post did occur on time at 4.30am and had in fact failed by the time the officers of the Third Light Horse Brigade realised their mistake. By the time the first wave of 150 men went over the top, the Turks were not only fully prepared to receive the assault, they were also virtually

General Frederic Godfrey Hughes, who was in command for the disastrous charge, reportedly shrunk from the responsibility of command



Harold Rush's headstone recalls his last words

unmolested in their defence.

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Henry White, commanding officer of Eighth Light Horse Regiment, insisted on leading the first wave of 150 men personally. These men, all hailing from Victoria, were immediately met by a murderous hail of rifle and machine gun fire. Within 30 seconds the colonel and most of his men were either killed or wounded. It was clear that any continuation of the attack would be futile in these conditions. Supporting attacks by the other light horse brigades had already been aborted, and the supporting assault by the Eighth Royal Welch Fusiliers, to the right flank of Colonel White's men, was also suspended. It was clear that the whole attack had failed. However, there was no one to cancel the second wave of Victorians, who two minutes later 'hopped the bags' and scrambled over the dead and wounded of their fallen comrades to meet the same fate. None of the men shirked their duty. Few made it even halfway.

Attempting to prevent another wave charging into certain death was Lieutenant Colonel Noel Brazier, commander of the Tenth Light Horse Regiment. He claimed that, "The whole thing was nothing but bloody murder". Unfortunately, due to marker flags having been seen in the Turkish trenches, Brazier could not persuade the stubborn brigade major, Colonel John Antill – who had taken over command of the brigade – to stop the attack.

Dead Ottoman soldiers lay scattered over the ground

It is now believed that the marker flags were probably those of the First Light Horse Brigade who had briefly captured a Turkish trench on their flank.

Brazier ordered the third wave forward, this time men from Western Australia, the Tenth Light Horse Regiment, who met the same fate. Knowing that it would be certain death, many fell flat to the ground as soon as they had left the trenches, which helped to reduce the casualties suffered in this assault. Brazier again tried to prevent a further wave going over the top, and this time he found General Hughes, commander of the brigade, who agreed that sending more men would be futile. Unfortunately, before communication was sent to the last wave to inform them that the attack has been cancelled, part of the fourth wave went over the top.

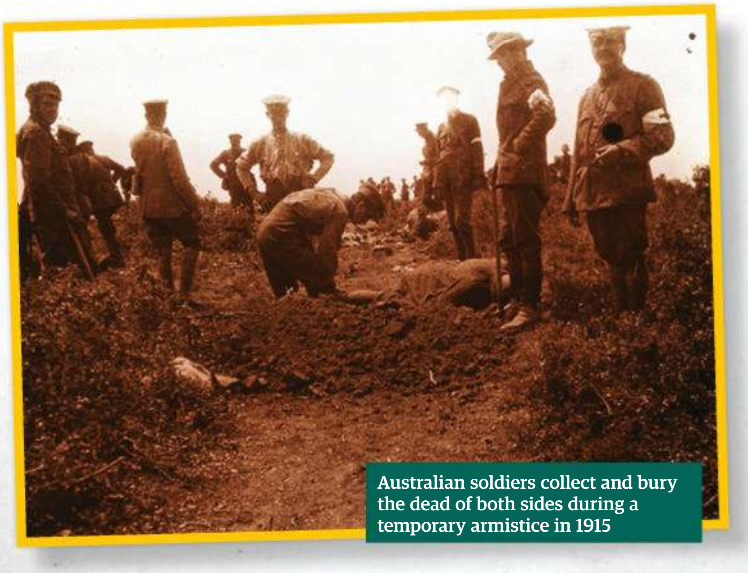
By the time commanders realised the futility of the attack, four waves had gone over the top in little more than 15 minutes. The ground separating the trenches, little bigger than three tennis courts, was covered with dead and dying Light Horsemen. The Eighth Light Horse suffered the highest casualties, losing 234 of its 300 men, 154 fatal. The Tenth suffered 138 casualties, 80 fatal.

The actual numbers involved in these losses might pale alongside some of the big battles on the Western Front such as Fromelles. For Australia, The Nek was a disaster on an epic scale, but it should be remembered that it is but one incident in a catalogue of unmitigated disasters at Gallipoli. While at the Nek there were 372 casualties in one morning, in one night the Australians at Fromelles suffered 5,533 casualties. But The Nek has rightfully been condemned in history as not only a tragic but also a futile attack. This event has become synonymous with the whole Gallipoli myth – a campaign that many Australians now latch on to as a key moment in their struggle for national identity.

The Australian Light Horse attack at The Nek was immortalised in Peter Weir's 1981 Oscar-winning film Gallipoli. The film's cinematography is spectacular and its musical score is nothing short of mesmerising, and it all culminates in the charge of the Light Horsemen. In this film, the attack is used to tell the story of these heroic young colonials being sent needlessly to their deaths by incompetent and vindictive British officers. The inaccuracies compound the myth by depicting the suicidal charge as a British-ordered attack that sacrificed innocent Australian lives in a diversion, while British soldiers drank their tea on the beaches at Suvla. In the climax, an officer with an English accent sends the four successive waves of these keen but inexperienced Australians to their deaths, clearly an example of the incompetent British recklessly squandering Australian lives.

While Britain had its fair share of incompetent commanders, so did the Australians. After the first two waves had been cut down, a commanding officer requests a cancellation (a request carried in the film at great risk by Mel Gibson's character). He is refused, and a third wave that includes the sprinter Wilfrid Harper, on whom the Archie Hamilton character was based, goes the way of the previous two. According to Charles Bean, the Australian official historian, Wilfrid was last seen "running forward like a schoolboy in a foot race with all the speed he could compass". His body was never found, like that of his brother Gresley, who was killed in the same charge.

But the film Gallipoli was not the first to immortalise the charge at The Nek. During the campaign, both British and Australian press latched onto this tragic tale. The London Standard


Australian soldiers collect and bury the dead of both sides during a temporary armistice in 1915

The Nek was one bloody episode in the very costly Gallipoli campaign

No Man's Land at The Nek. It was here that Australian soldiers charged with bayonets fixed

published the story under the headline 'Honour the Light Brigade', comparing the bravery of the light horse with past British military deeds at Balaklava in the Crimean war, stating, "In the years that are to come this deed which the men of Victoria and Western Australia did along with many another in that bloodstained zone will bear its part in keeping the people of the British name together by the common memory of glorious deeds." Bloody military disasters seem to capture the imagination of the British and Australian public alike.

But why should fact get in the way of a good story? It is inaccurate and unfair to blame 'callous' British generals for the slaughter at The Nek, as there were no British officers commanding the assault. The attack also had nothing to do with supporting the British landing at Suvla, but rather the intention was to support their Anzac brethren, the New Zealanders. While Australians should be rightfully proud of their soldiers, we should not diminish others in the process.

Who then were the British officers? In fact, the two main incompetents were Australian – Brigadier General Hughes and Colonel Antill. As L.A. Carlyon wrote, "Hughes was the brigade commander and didn't command; Antill wasn't the brigade commander and he did. Responsibility rattled Hughes and, either consciously or unconsciously, he walked away from it. Antill behaved as he always did, like a bull strung up in barbed wire." The tragic deaths suffered at The Nek were the result of bad Australian decision-making, not British command. That said, it is important to remember that errors at all levels were made in World War I, as commanders on all sides struggled with the reality of modern industrialised warfare. Some generals were better than others, and it was not uncommon for the poor generals to be replaced. Gallipoli had its fair share of generals who were dismissed, including the general officer commanding the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Sir Ian Hamilton. By the war's end, the quality of British and Australian leadership was predominantly very good, a point recognised by military historians as a key factor in the Allies winning the war.

If you visit The Nek cemetery today, you will be struck by the narrowness of the area, the few Light Horsemen who have headstones and the peacefulness of the Gallipoli area. It was too beautiful a battlefield to die, but many did. One of the few light horse troopers who has a headstone is English-born Harold Rush, Tenth Light Horse Regiment, who died in the third wave. His body was recovered and is buried in Walker's Ridge Cemetery, overlooking the beaches and Suvla Bay. His epitaph reads, "His Last words, 'Goodbye Cobber God Bless you'".

But it is the heart-rending words attributed to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who was a commander of Ottoman forces in Gallipoli during World War I and later the founder of modern Turkey, that fittingly ends this article: "Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives… You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours… You, the mothers who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well."

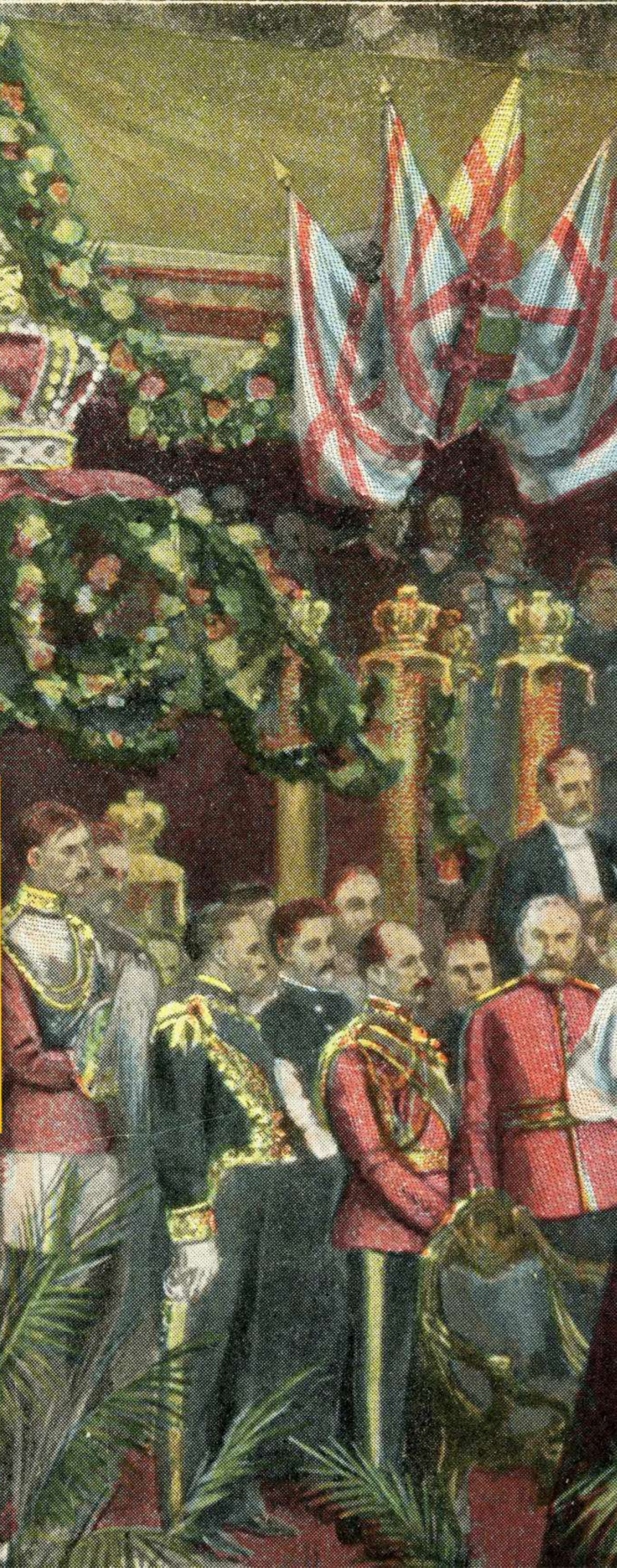
THEIR NAME LIVETH
FOR
EVERMORE

Today there is a white marble commemoration where the Ottoman trenches were

© Mary Evans, TopFoto

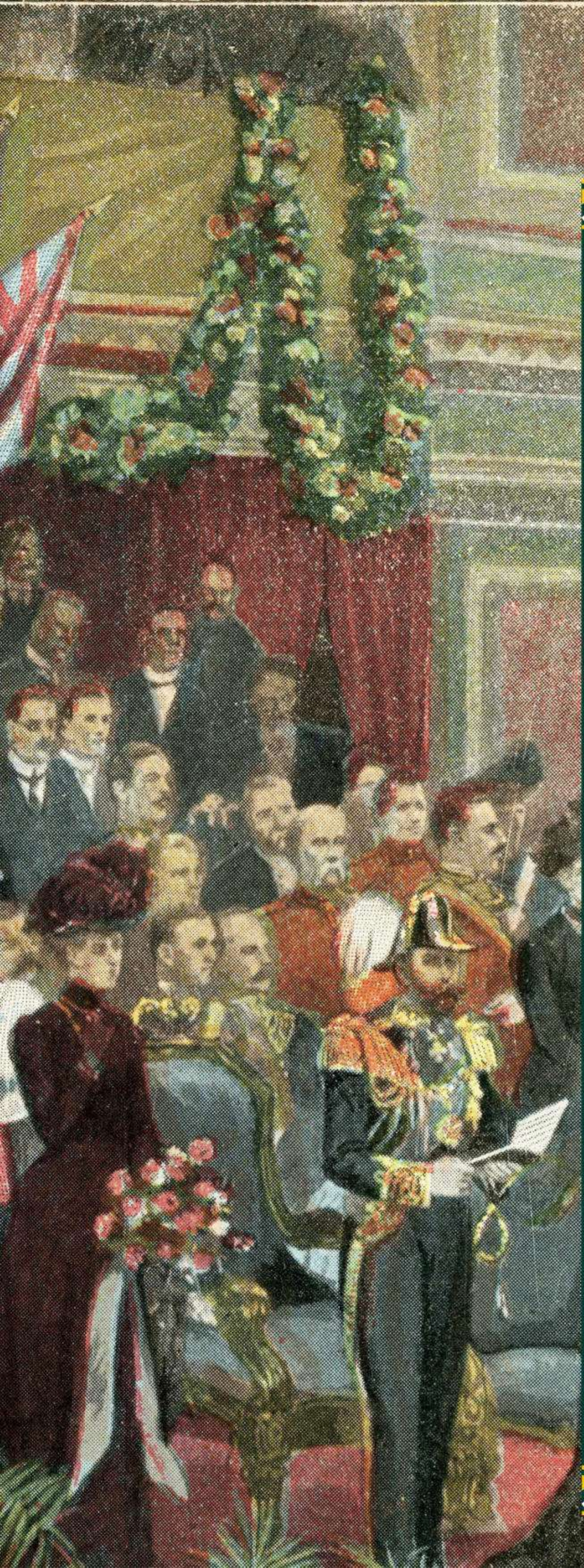
John Curtin, the Aussie prime minister who saw the Statute of Westminster become law in Australia

The fall of Singapore to the Japanese in 1942 was one of the final catalysts of Australian independence



The opening of Australia's parliament in 1901: the first stepping stone to independence from the British

© Alamy, Wikiimages



A SOVEREIGN NATION

Born from necessity and the desire to be independent, Australia's days as a dominion were numbered

Words by Katharine Marsh

From 1901, Australia was independent… sort of. It was now a dominion of the British Empire – the country enjoyed some independence and was now self-governing, but it still wasn't its own country. That would come about 40 years later.

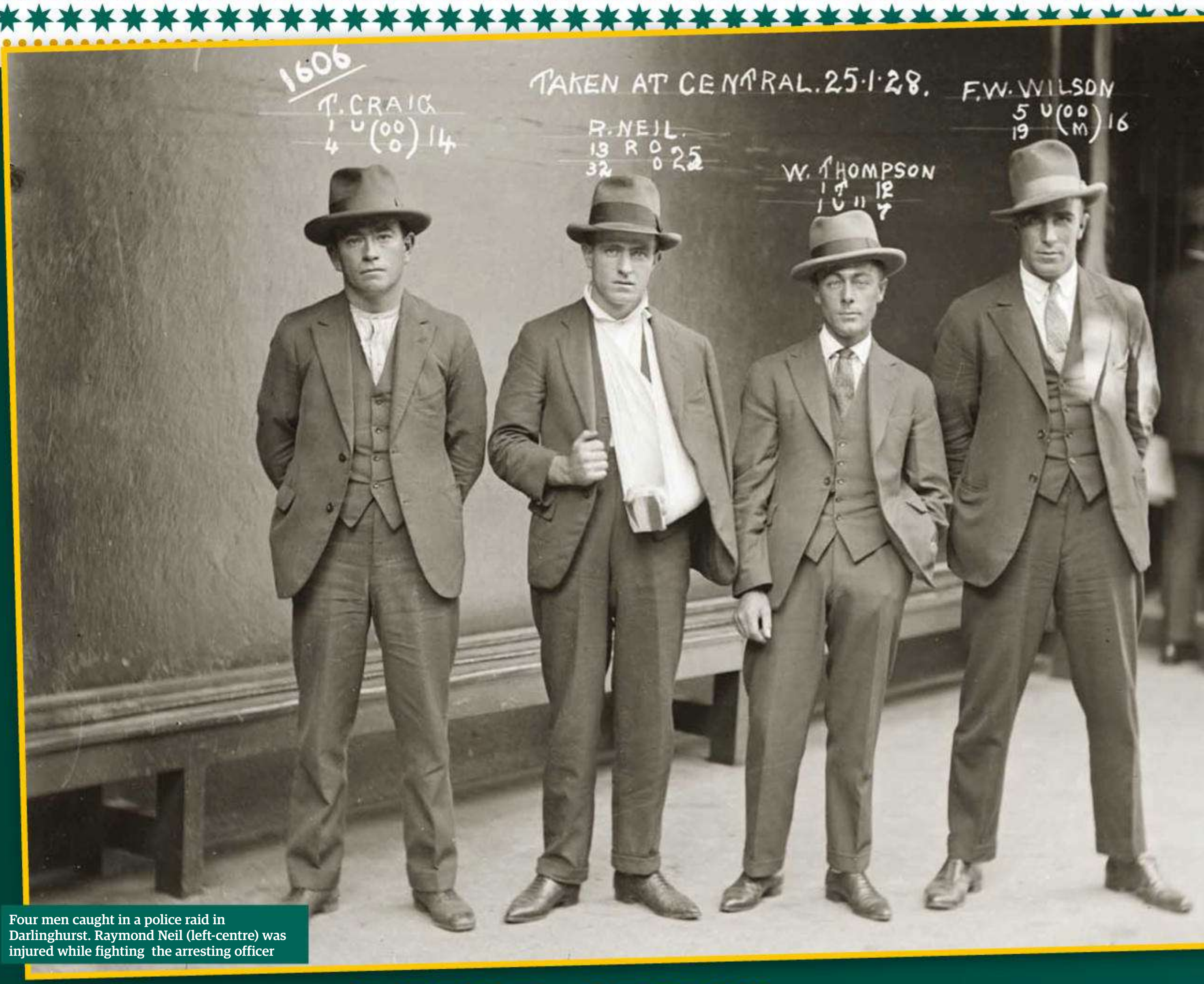
In 1931, the first seeds of true Australian independence were sown. The Statute of Westminster saw Canada (although Newfoundland wouldn't follow until 1949), South Africa and the Irish Free State (soon to be the Republic of Ireland) becoming legally independent. They were now their own nations, albeit still under the rule of the British monarchy.

At first, Australia was hesitant. The main opponent was John Latham, who served as leader of the opposition from 1929-31, but his main issue wasn't with the overarching idea. His problem was the Statute itself; why should it be enshrined in law when autonomy and Commonwealth relations were already being dealt with? Other senior members of parliament also weren't eager to see the Statute become law.

It seemed almost inevitable, though. In 1930, the Australian prime minister made the bold move of recommending someone (Sir Isaac Isaacs) to be the governor-general. It was a departure from the age-old tradition of the king recommending someone based on the advice of the British prime minister – but it wasn't illegal. The Balfour Declaration of 1926 made sure of that; dominions could look after their own affairs. King George V disapproved of the choice, but there was nothing he could do. Australia was becoming more and more independent.

It wouldn't be until 9 October 1942 that Australia would enact the Statute, although it was retroactively dated to 3 September 1939. If the date seems familiar, it's no accident – it was the day the United Kingdom declared war on Germany, fully kicking World War II into action. 1942 was a pivotal year in the conflict for Australia and its allies. Singapore had fallen to the Japanese, and the United States had been brought into the fighting thanks to the raid on Pearl Harbor. It had long been thought that the British would protect Australia, but John Curtin, the new prime minister, disagreed. He looked to the US for an alliance. The only way he could get it was if Australia was an independent sovereign nation, so that's what Australia became.

It also had another added bonus for Australia: any laws made by its parliament that were repugnant to British laws were no longer invalid. Australia was finally in charge of its own legislation, its merchant shipping in its own waters, and Britain could only get involved if the government requested it.


1606
T. CRAIG
TAKEN AT CENTRAL. 25·1·28.
F.W. WILSON
R. NEIL.
W. THOMPSON

Four men caught in a police raid in Darlinghurst. Raymond Neil (left-centre) was injured while fighting the arresting officer

RAZOR GANGS: SEX, SLASHERS & SLY GROG

In the wake of a new era for Australia, vice-hungry vagabonds ruled the streets of Sydney

Words by Tanita Matthews

The Underbelly Down Under

Rough around the edges and savouring the pre-war era, Australia's New South Wales in the early years of the 20th century was a place where prostitution, gambling, narcotics and guns were not just tolerated, but in most instances legal. But in 1905, the country's government began to slowly erode away all the bad habits its inhabitants had clung to for comfort.

A combination of laws passed such as the Vagrancy Act of 1902, the Gambling and Betting Act of 1906, The Police Offences (Amendment) Act of 1908, the Liquor Act of 1916 and the Dangerous Drugs Amendment Act of 1927 made street prostitution, gambling and alcohol sales after 6pm illegal. Thanks to an ever-increasing anti-narcotics movement, chemists and small-time traffickers were put out of business. With the sales of sex, drugs and alcohol driven underground, criminals flocked together like birds of a feather.

Australian tabloids, latching onto the Al Capone era that was plaguing America on the other side of the globe, declared East Sydney was "the Chicago of the South" and a "breeding place of vice". Australia would draw a lot of parallels to the US and its Prohibition Era as it mirrored the strict laws imposed regarding the sales and distribution of alcohol on its civilians.

In the wake of a revolution for transport, the eastern part of the capital resembled shantytowns when newer and flashier homes in other areas of the city attracted the working class. As Larry Writer summarised in his book Razor: A True Story of Slashers, Gangsters, Prostitutes and Sly Grog, the areas that commonly became known as 'Razorhurst' were born from an "ill-starred confluence of between-the-wars social conditions, well intended but wrong-headed laws and a truly extraordinary group of ambitious and ruthless crime entrepreneurs determined to cash in on the vices of beloved Australians." Surry Hills, Darlinghurst, Wooloomooloo, Paddington and King's Cross districts became the stomping grounds of infamous vice queens Tilly Devine and Kate Leigh and their gangs, along with Melbourne razor gang leader and standover merchant Norman Bruhn, and Phil 'The Jew' Jeffs, a cocaine pusher and sly grog patron.

N. CAMERON. 29.7.30.
792.L.B.

Nellie Cameron, also known as the 'Kiss of Death Girl', in 1930

Each madam was determined to outdo the others, insistent on being the most powerful and infamous criminal their country had ever seen. Between them they forged armies of brutes who waged war on the streets of Sydney. Following on from the 1927 Pistol Act, which prohibited guns being carried, villains donned a new weapon of choice: the razor blade.

A silent but deadly accomplice to crime, thousands of men and women found themselves brutalised victims of slashings and stabbings. Sydneysiders didn't fear death so much as the trademark L-shaped scar on their cheek that marked them as the prey of underworld gangs. None evoked such terror as the razor gangs of Sydney and the men and women behind them.

Sly grog queen of Sydney

Leigh, the older of the madams and the only Australian native of the four leaders, was born in 1881 in Dubbo, Central Western New South Wales, to Timothy and Charlotte Beahan. The eighth of 13 children, she was a wilful spirit, always in

M.DEVINE.27.5.25.
659.L.B.
G1
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Tilly Devine

Born 8 September 1900
Died 24 November 1970

Also known as

Worst Woman in Sydney
Queen of the Loo

Arrested a staggering 79 times between 1921 and 1925 alone, Devine had charges against her for whoring, fighting, theft, swearing and offensive behaviour and consorting with criminals.

Kate Leigh

Born 10 March 1881
Died 4 February 1964

Also known as

Most Evil Woman in Sydney
Queen Of Surry Hills

Although Leigh was charged on 107 occasions she only went to prison 13 times. Charges included robbery, theft, murder and possession of the sedative phenobarbitone. She served 12 months in prison for drug possession in 1930.

© Alamy, Getty Images Sydney Living Museums, State Archives NSW

Suspected conman Edward Dalton (right) bears the distinctive scar of a razor attack on his face

> "At the height of her career, Leigh operated almost two dozen sly groggeries"

trouble for stealing, hitting other children and playing truant. After four years in a girl's home for 'delinquent' and uncontrollable girls following years of maltreatment as a child, she worked as a waitress and in factories in Glebe and Surry Hills.

Soon the young woman's dreams of living beyond a mediocre pay packet prompted her to seek the company of criminals. At 21 years of age, she married her first husband, Jack Leigh, a 30-year-old carpenter and petty crook. The two had a daughter together but parted ways following a stint in the gaols when Leigh's husband was tried for assaulting another man. Leigh attempted to swing the jury in their favour by lying in court but the judge sentenced her to prison with her husband for perjury.

Following her release, she strayed once again from the straight and narrow and by 1913 she was convicted for running a brothel and placed on a 12-month good behaviour bond. The following year, Leigh, the lover of gangland criminal Samuel 'Jewey' Freeman was sentenced again for perjury after she supplied a false alibi for Freeman, who had conducted the great Eveleigh Workshops payroll robbery. "Seven years for sticking to a man. I'll swing before I stick to another," she uttered before she was locked away. She wouldn't be released until 1919, having served less than five years of her sentence.

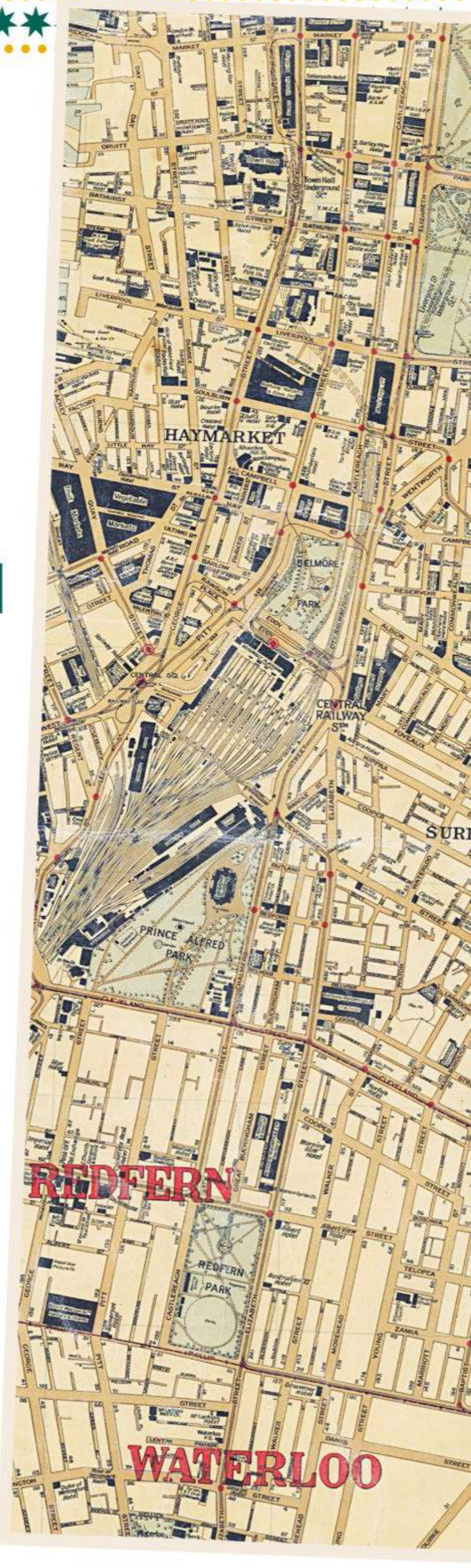
It was at this time that Leigh decided to fill a gap in the market. With the 1919 temporary (soon to be permanent) ban in place across Australia, which had enforced a 6pm closing time on pubs, Leigh began selling illegal liquor, or 'sly grog', to quench the thirst of those left dry mouthed by the new restriction. At the height of her career, Leigh operated almost two dozen sly grogeries – rooms at the back of grocery shops and other inconspicuous premises. As well as a sly grog entrepreneur, she was a brothel owner and cocaine merchant, a fearless and flamboyant woman dubbed the 'Long John Silver of Sydney'.

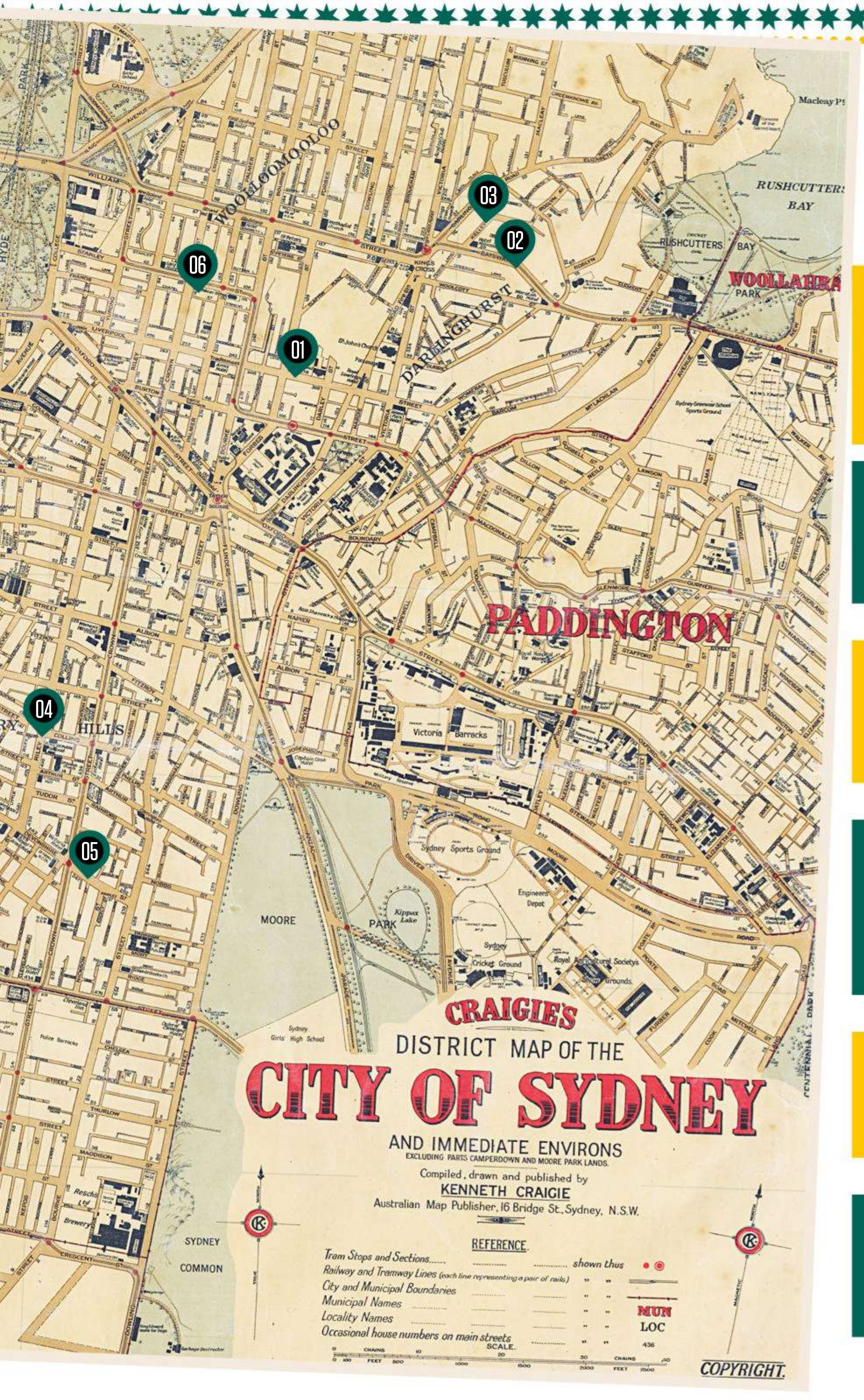
New girl on the block

Born Matilda Twiss, Tilly Devine was a fabulous, fair-haired beauty. She could be as generous as she could be vicious. Born in London during the final year of Queen Victoria's reign, Devine grew up in pitiful poverty. She was determined to see better days than those where she had starved and shivered as an infant.

Leaving school at the age of 12, she realised that a life in the sweatshops would not afford her the luxuries she desired. A stunning young woman with big blue eyes and luscious blonde locks, she sold herself on the Strand earning almost ten times the average wage as a prostitute.

As a fresh-faced 16-year-old, she met and fell in love with Australian soldier Jim Devine, a former sheep shearer and petty crook with a violent temper, and they married later that year. One biographer describes him as a man who "used the word 'fuck' as if it were a comma." Otherwise known as 'Big Jim', he didn't try to stop his wife earning a living as a whore and revelled in her hard-earned cash. A few times Devine was arrested for soliciting in the Strand, ordered to pay fines or thrown into Bow Street.

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WOOLLOOMOOLOO
DARLINGHURST
PADDINGTON
RUSHCUTTERS BAY
WOOLLAHRA
Macleay Pt
HYDE
HILLS
Victoria Barracks
Sydney Sports Ground
MOORE PARK
Kippax Lake
Sydney Cricket Ground
Royal Agricultural Society's Show Grounds
SYDNEY COMMON
CENTENNIAL PARK
CRAIGIE'S
DISTRICT MAP OF THE
CITY OF SYDNEY
AND IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS
EXCLUDING PARTS CAMPERDOWN AND MOORE PARK LANDS.
Compiled, drawn and published by
KENNETH CRAIGIE
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REFERENCE.
Tram Stops and Sections ... shown thus
Railway and Tramway Lines (each line representing a pair of rails)
City and Municipal Boundaries
Municipal Names ... MUN
Locality Names ... LOC
Occasional house numbers on main streets ... 436
SCALE.
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SYDNEY'S GANGLAND

Key crime scenes in the razor gangs' turf war

01 Sly groggery robbery

6 June 1927

Bruhn's associate Frank 'Razor Jack' Hayes was gunned down by Tom Kelly in response to the members of Devine's violent razor gang robbing Jeff's sly grog shop and making off with the proprietor's takings, cash and jewellery.

02 Blood Alley Battle

7 May 1929

Phil 'the Jew' Jeffs and his gang were challenged to a fight when a Wooloomooloo gang discovered that the drugs peddler was mixing cocaine with barboric acid and selling it as pure powder.

03 Crossing the border

8 August 1929

Devine and her gang, armed with guns and razors, stood on the cusp of Leigh's stomping ground. Threats and jibes were exchanged before a battle broke out. More than a dozen were badly injured.

04 Attempted murder

27 March 1930

After a spate of attacks on her home on Riley Street, Leigh came face-to-face with four gangsters looking for her henchman Tomlinson. Leigh shot one man in the stomach and he died. She was arrested for attempted murder but found not guilty on the grounds of self-defence.

05 Leigh's grog shop

1951-64

A flat above a fruit and vegetable store on 212 Devonshire Street was Leigh's main dispensary where she lived out her days until she died in 1964 at the age of 82.

06 Chez Devine

1945 onwards

The Tradesman's Arms was at the heart of Devine's stomping ground in Darlinghurst. Across the Road at 191 Palmer Street she and Big Jim sometimes lived. The house was also Devine's main brothel.

VICE, VICE BABY

With multiple illegal activities from which to profit, each empire had ample opportunities to line their pockets

PROSTITUTION 101: 'GINGERING'

Devine's prostitutes would accost a lover while an accomplice lay in wait to sneak the busy punter's wallet from his cleverly chucked clothes. Another co-conspirator would burst in claiming to be the prostitute's jealous husband and kick them out. Afraid to return to the home or to enlighten cops to his illegal romp, the customer would suffer the loss of a week's wages.

SLICE OF THE PROFITS

Leigh's profits would haemorrhage when rival gangs extorted them from her cocaine trade. Standover men would approach her decoys, slashing them with razors when they refused to pay up.

ROLL OF THE VICE

With gambling banned, illegal betting shops thrived. A *People Magazine* article in the 1950s described Leigh and Devine as "the queens of Sydney's slumland," with "an empire of brothels, gambling joints, verminous flop-houses, sly groggeries and gin mills."

THE BREWERY BUMP

Leigh would buy beer, wine and spirits in bulk from local breweries or distilleries at wholesale prices for one shilling and sixpence, including delivery. At her late-night sly grog shops, she would charge three shillings a drink.

SNOW BUSINESS

Devine would often pay her prostitutes in a mix of cash and cocaine, getting them hooked on the drug so that they would be more eager to sell themselves to afford it, or happier to take it as payment.

But when the war was over, Devine's husband sailed back to Australia. She followed him a year later leaving their son behind with her own parents and she began work as a prostitute almost immediately from their Paddington flat in Sydney. Meanwhile, her husband continued to seek out whatever illegal activity he could to earn a living, from gambling to acting as a standover man for businesses, demanding protection money from illegal premises.

Between the pair of them, the Devines racked up over 100 charges. In 1925, she and her husband found themselves serving time in the gaols together – she for slashing a man with a razor in a barber's shop, him for living off her ill-gotten wages. Now 25 years old, Devine decided she would take a new course of action following her release. While laws prohibited men from running brothels, it mentioned nowhere that a woman was unable to do so.

Over the years, Devine accumulated her fortune through hiring girls to do the dirty work while she, their madam, collected a percentage of their earnings in exchange for the use of one of her dens. Devine was kind and generous to those who were loyal to her but she was not opposed to a fist fight if someone double crossed her or tried to skip out on paying their dues. Some of her most violent consorts included her husband and Frank 'the little gunman' Green, a "psychopath, drunkard and cocaine addict."

Although Devine and Leigh's empires were of completely different natures, and given that each had their own stomping ground, some areas of their lives overlapped. Leigh dabbled as a madam and Devine, with her empire of whorehouses, often paid her girls with a mix of money and cocaine. Theirs was a rivalry of a much more personal nature.

As the only two female arch-criminals in Sydney, each strived to be more vulgar, more extravagant, more wealthy and more feared than the other and were not opposed to fighting each other in the streets on multiple occasions when their paths crossed. Leigh would encourage her men to disfigure Tilly's prostitutes with a flick of their razor blades. In retaliation, Tilly would have her heavies slash the faces of Leigh's criminal decoys and smash up her sly grog shops. Leigh would send her gangsters to smash up Tilly's brothels. The whole time, the women tittle-tattled on each other to the police.

Shooter, slasher, sly grogger, spy

Outside of their personal feud, a more deadly war was waging in Sydney. For two years, the violence had bubbled beneath the surface, threatening to erupt in all its bloody fury. Beginning with the Blood Alley Battle in the winter of 1927, which saw dozens of armoured gangsters injured, Devine and Leigh struggled for control of East Sydney vice rackets. Dozens were injured, many killed and all refused to name their attackers as part of the criminal code.

On the evening of 17 July 1929, Devine's enforcers, Green and Sidney McDonald, came face to face with Leigh's henchman, George 'Gunman' Gaffney. Green was shot with a revolver, although not fatally. After taking him to the hospital, McDonald dashed to the Devines in Darlinghurst and relayed the ordeal before the three of them returned to the couple's Maroubra home.

Once amended, Green met up with the trio at around midnight. But within the hour another

James 'Big Jim' Devine was Tilly's husband and partner-in-crime

Rivals Kate Leigh and Tilly Devine in 1948

taxi pulled into Torrington Road. Stepping out of the cab, Gaffney and Thomlinson came to blows with 'Big Jim' as they clambered into his yard baying for Green's blood for fear he had lived to tell the tale.

But the tables turned when Gaffney was fatally wounded by 'Big Jim' and a .303 military rifle. At his trial, Devine's husband's defence was that he had opened fire to protect his home and wife, something that the court deemed justifiable.

Leigh was outraged that Gaffney had been killed at the hands of her enemy and offered a large bounty for his killer. The Leigh-Devine war ensued with the Devines' gang taking the offensive. Leigh's faction suffered a tremendous amount of casualties in a number of bloody and violent battles.

By the end of 1929, the government, at its wits end with the razor gangs' destruction on Sydney's streets, passed the Consorting Clause, insisting on harsh punishments for those who "habitually consorts with reputed thieves, or prostitutes, or persons who have no visible or lawful means of support." It was a clause that gave the New South Wales Police the utmost power in convicting anyone thought to be contributing to the country's out-of-hand criminality.

By the end of January 1930, a newly formed Consorting Squad was on the rampage to bring down the criminal factions. That year, more than 100 residents were charged under the new clause and at least half went to prison.

Among those arrested was Devine. However, she avoided prison by promising the judge that she would leave Australia for two years and eventually she was shipped off to England, leaving her husband behind. But with the ever-increasing threat of being prosecuted, 'Big Jim' found himself on trial for murder within a year. By the time Devine returned, her gang, which had once been the pinnacle of criminal activity, was falling apart.

Cut off

With the Consorting Clause in place, judges and juries were much harsher in handing out sentences and a lot more affirmative with helping police do their job and Devine wasn't the only vice queen to suffer from the stricter laws.Leigh was arrested following a police raid on one of her rented houses in Surry Hills and she was sentenced to four months' imprisonment in February 1929 for her role in providing a premises on which criminals could gather. However, the most damning charge came after a raid on her East Sydney home in the middle of 1930. The Drugs Bureau found cocaine and arrested three female distributors.

Despite her apparent luck in avoiding the gaols for most of her adult life, Leigh was finally convicted of cocaine possession and handed down the heaviest sentence ever imposed in New South Wales for a narcotics offence – 12 months' imprisonment and a fine of £250, or another 12 months behind bars at the discretion of the court. Her right-hand man, Frederick Dangar, was also arrested and found guilty for drugs charges following an arrest for attempting to purchase 15 grams of cocaine without a prescription. The magistrate fined Dangar £250, in default of 12 months' imprisonment.

Through her political contacts, Leigh managed to persuade the courts to release her a year early in exchange for paying a £250 fine. However, she did not learn her lesson, and she was arrested again shortly after her release in January 1933 for receiving stolen goods. This time she was exiled from Sydney and its surrounding areas for a period of five years.

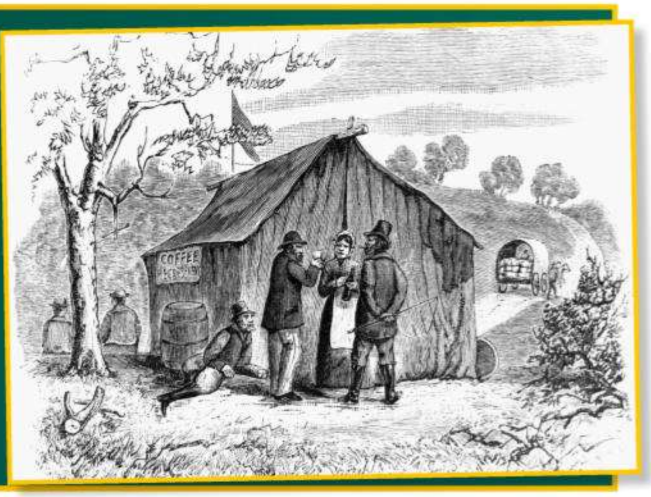
The Drug Bureau and Consorting Squad eliminated cocaine trafficking as a major organised crime activity by the mid-1930s. Consorting Squad operations' Mr Chaffey declared that, "The reign of terror is ended." Although the madams continued their lives in Sydney, their reputations and their days as crime syndicate leaders were in tatters as their gang members perished at the hands of the law. The days of mayhem and lawlessness were over. It was Devine who felt she had the last laugh when her arch-nemesis passed away six years before she did in 1964.

DIGGING INTO THE HISTORY OF SLY GROG

Although Leigh's sly grog shop was a successful business, it was not the first of its kind in Australia. Speaking to Tasmanian historian Nic Haygarth, All About History delved into the roots of sly grog shops and the link to the mining communities.

Haygarth said that the reason for existing of the sly grog shop was "the absence of moral authority (police, church, local government) and the absence of a licensed hotel" during the 19th century. "Someone was always going to meet the demand for alcohol," he continued. In his online blog, the professor at the University of Tasmania lists the types of drinks that would have been sold in such establishments, taking note from a raid on an Adamsfield sly grog shop. Alcohol such as bottles and flasks full of whisky, gin, ale and schnapps were taken from the illegal premises. One writer also commented in his book that Leigh sold a drink known as 'pinkie', which consisted of new wine fortified with cheap spirits.

So why were miners so eager to keep the alcohol business alive? According to Haygarth, the men who established premises such as the 'Digger's Rest' and 'Miner's Delight' "appear to have been small-time criminals or at least willing to take a risk to meet demands for gambling and alcohol."



THE HISTORY OF THE FLYING DOCTOR

The incredible history of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and how one minister's dream helped those living in the most remote parts of the Australian Outback

Words by Poppy-Jay St. Palmer

Alongside stunning national parks, deadly wildlife and fantastic surf, Australia is also home to more than 25 million people. Most of them cling to the coastlines in built-up cities like Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. The seven million or so that are left are dotted around 7.7 million square kilometres of rural or remote land, far from services and amenities offered by urban life.

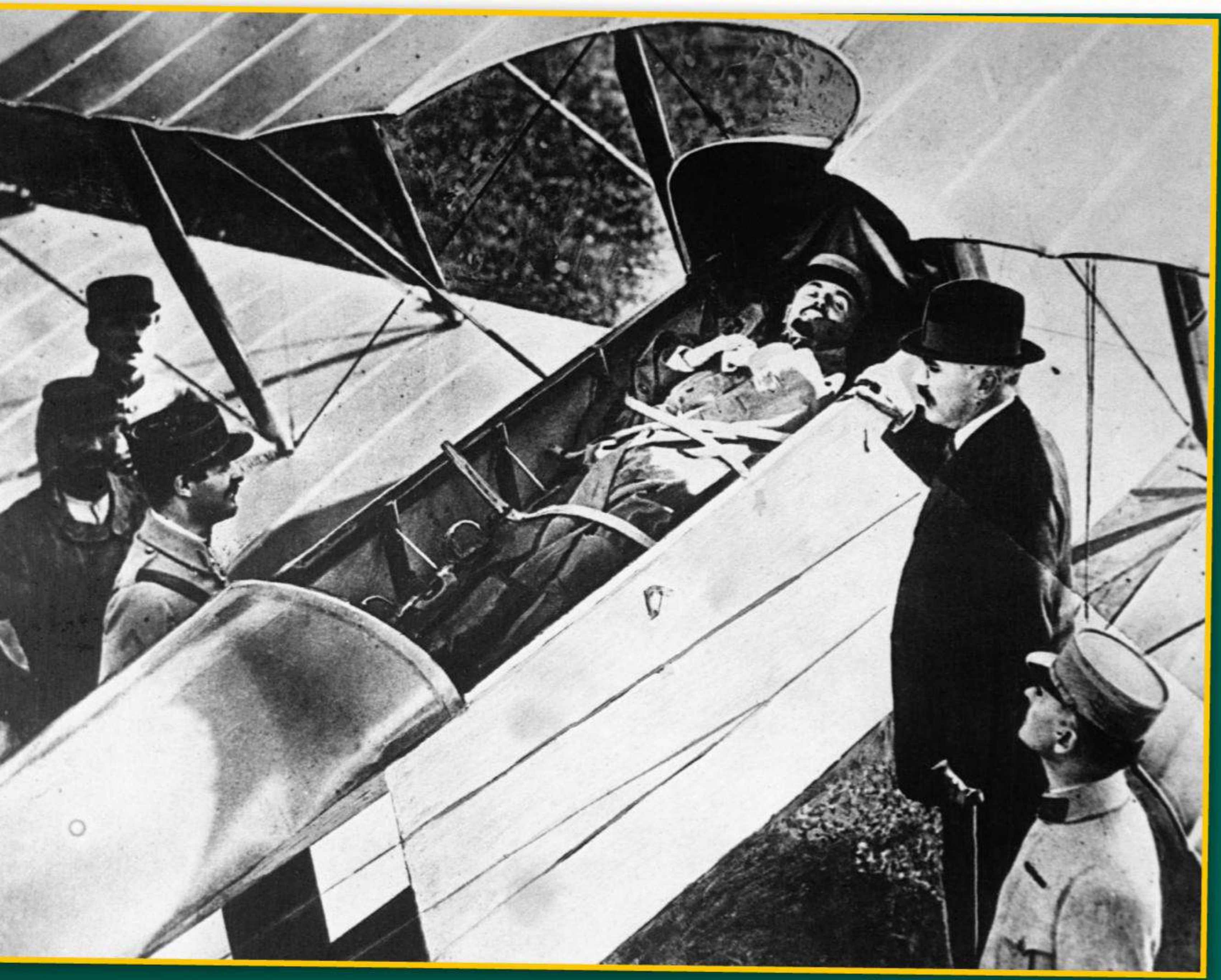
In an area famous for its blazing deserts, deadly critters and lack of company, it may not be that surprising that people living in rural and remote parts of Australia have higher rates of hospitalisation, injury and deaths. At one time, people suffering from serious illnesses or injuries had to travel hundreds of kilometres across uninhabited land by horse, cart or even camel to seek medical attention. They often died before they reached it.

But since 1928, trips to the emergency room or even routine check-ups haven't been as much hassle for rural Australians and travellers as you might think. The answer? Flying doctors.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service has been helping those in need for more than 90 years, providing emergency and primary health care to people living in some of the most rural, remote areas of Australia. Also known as the RFDS (or simply, the Flying Doctor), the non-profit service has stations and clinics located all over the country and, through the use of a fleet of aeroplanes, can reach anyone, anywhere, within hours. In 2020, the RFDS assisted 320,100 patients in need and flew 27,250,793 kilometres - the equivalent of 34 trips to the Moon and back - while doing it. And it's all thanks to the work of a man named Reverend John Flynn.

Flynn's love affair with the Australian outback began when his family moved to Sunshine in Melbourne's western suburbs. He would often hear romantic tales about the region from his father's business partners, who mounted an unsuccessful venture in the remote far north of Australia.

During his studies at the University of Melbourne, Flynn took an interest in the ministry, which led him to a four-year course in divinity. He graduated in 1910 and was ordained as a minister of the Presbyterian Church a year later. Throughout his training, Flynn's passion for the Outback remained. He would often help other ministers with missionary work in rural and remote Victoria and South Australia. Flynn



SISTER MYRA BLANCH

Alongside the flying doctors themselves, nurses also played a large part in making the RFDS the success that it is today. Sister Myra Blanch was one of the service's first nurses, known as 'Flying Sisters', and was key to the New South Wales sections of the organisation during the 1940s and 1950s. As an experienced rural nurse and ex-nursing officer in the Royal Australian Regiment, she was truly dedicated to the cause, and gained wide media coverage for her effort during her nine-year career with the RFDS.

In the 1940s, Australian nurses typically wore white uniforms, red capes and white veils, so Sister Blanch already stood out in her signature khaki slacks and shirts, which were far more appropriate in the harsh conditions of the Outback. In one photograph published in an official Flying Doctor booklet, she's pictured crossing flood waters between a landing strip and a patient's home, with her trousers rolled up above her knees.

As well as her unusual uniform, she also used to arrive at emergency scenes in unconventional ways (for the RFDS, at least). 'Flying Sister' was something of a misnomer; she had been known to ride in utility vehicles, ride on horseback and even hitchhike to reach her patients. Her experiences in the military and knowledge of the bush and the Outback made her no stranger to turmoil, and would regularly go above and beyond in the name of providing care to those in need.

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BANE
3

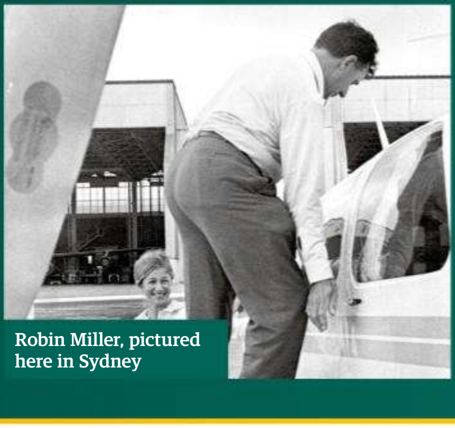
An air ambulance arrives in Brisbane in 1931

THE SUGAR BIRD LADY

The 'Flying Sisters' was a misnomer in the case of Sister Myra Blanch, but for flight nurse Robin Miller it was a pretty accurate description. As the daughter of aviator Horrie Miller, she fostered a fascination with flight from a young age. She even gained her commercial pilot's license while training as a nurse at Royal Perth Hospital. However, it looked like her aviation dreams were to be crushed before she got started: despite interviewing for jobs, no one wanted to hire a female pilot.

Rejection wasn't enough to stop Robin Miller. Not taking no for an answer, she decided to create her own job. In 1967, Western Australia was hit by a second polio strike and distributing the vaccine to rural citizens was proving difficult. In response, Miller borrowed money to buy a plane, contacted the government and offered to fly solo over the bush and the Outback, administering 37,000 doses of the vaccine with sugar lumps to quell the bitter taste. Her life-saving work earnt her the nickname 'the Sugar Bird Lady'.

43,000 air miles later, Miller was offered a position in the RFDS that allowed her to help patients, fly a plane and even service her own aircraft. Following a short but impressive career – which once saw her deliver a baby in the back of her aircraft before landing it – Miller died of cancer aged 35. Her husband, Harold Dicks (the then-director of the RFDS), set up a memorial foundation to help nurses get flying licences in her honour.



Robin Miller, pictured here in Sydney

even teamed up with fellow minister Andrew Barber to publish *The Bushman's Companion*, a comprehensive and wildly popular informational book filled with tips and tricks for people exploring the bush. But that was just the start of it.

In 1911, Flynn journeyed to the tiny Smith of Dunesk Mission in Beltana, South Australia. There, he experienced the hardships of Outback life and realised there was no medical care available to those living or travelling inland. The following year, he presented a report on life in the Northern Territory to the Presbyterian Church, which included a proposal for inland missions. The Church clearly took to it – Flynn was swiftly appointed the head of a new organisation known as the Australian Inland Mission (AIM).

After dedicating the next six years to ministering to the spiritual, social and medical needs of people of the Outback, Flynn received a letter that would not only change his life, but the lives of hundreds of thousands of rural people. The letter came from Lieutenant Clifford Peel, a Victorian medical student, airman and war hero who had heard some of Flynn's public speeches. On being shipped out to France during World War I, he suggested Flynn look into using aviation in his quest for easy medical access. Sadly, Peel was shot down and killed in France aged 24 and never knew what his letter would go on to inspire.

Reverend Flynn spent the next ten years campaigning to bring the dream to life; he wanted to create a 'mantle of safety' for the people of the Outback. Finally, in 1928, he formed the AIM Aerial Medical Service, which started as a one-year experiment to find out if that dream was possible. Flynn teamed up with Hudson Fysh, the founder of Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services (now commonly known to Australians as QANTAS) to operate the first air ambulance from Cloncurry, Queensland.

The RFDS of today uses high-tech Pilatus jets and the like for emergency calls. Arthur Affleck, the service's first ever pilot, left the AIM base in a single engine, timber and fabric bi-plane named 'Victory', with the very first flying doctor, Dr Kenyon St Vincent Welch, for company. Our pilot flew in an open cockpit, fully exposed to the elements, and with no radio or navigational aids on board, he had only a compass to guide him. As far as directions went, he had rivers, dirt roads and telegraph lines to go on. He took off from and landed on makeshift runways fashioned from whatever the RFDS could find. It wasn't a bad start, but things could be better.

Defining moment

Letters from the war

1917

Reverend Flynn spends years thinking of ways to provide medical care to those in remote areas, and the answer finally comes to him in a letter from an Australian soldier about to be shipped out for World War I. Lieutenant Clifford Peel suggests Flynn take a leaf out of the military's book and look to aviation for the answer. He'd seen medical crews fly out to injured soldiers during his time serving his country.

Defining moment

The pedal radio

1928

After years of experimentation, engineer Alfred Traeger creates the key to the operation's communication channels: the pedal radio. It allows those living in remote areas to send and receive messages without the use of expensive batteries or power generators. Instead, it is pedal-operated. Radios are placed in remote outhouses so that people can call for help in emergencies. Communications start in morse code and then as voice messages. Eventually, the devices are hooked up to transistor radios so doctors can provide phone appointments without having to travel.

> "Our pilot flew in an open cockpit, fully exposed to the elements, and with no radio or navigational aids"

Timeline

1910

The beginning
John Flynn, a minister for the Presbyterian Church, becomes fascinated with the Australian bush and Outback and those that lived there, and even co-authored *The Bushman's Companion* with Andrew Barber.

1912

The Presbyterian Assembly
After experiencing the hardships faced by those living in remote Australia, Flynn presents a report on life in the Northern Territory, which includes detailed plans to open inland missions.

1916

Flynn x Traeger
Seeking innovation, Reverend Flynn teams up with inventor and engineer Alfred Traeger to see if they can create some kind of device that would allow people living in remote areas to contact a central medical base.

1928

The trial
Flynn teams up with QANTAS founder Hudson Fysh, who loans him an aircraft, to operate the first air ambulance service out of Cloncurry, Queensland. The endeavour is part of a one-year trial to see if the idea has wings.

VH-NQD
Royal
Doctor Service
Hinterland

More than 90 years after the organisation's conception, the RFDS is still going strong

When the RFDS first took flight, patients had to rely on telegraphs to communicate with doctors. They were handy in certain situations, but they were far too slow and complicated to use in an emergency, especially in remote areas. Looking for something more efficient, Flynn contacted Australian engineer Alfred Traeger. By 1928, he had developed a new invention that became instrumental in the early success of the RFDS: the pedal radio. A pedal-operated generator that powered a radio receiver, it allowed those living in isolation to get in contact in emergencies. Calls for help were received from all over the country, first in morse code and then as voice messages.

Since its inception, the RFDS has been going from strength to strength. Despite the challenges it faced – including operating in postwar Australia, as well as the Great Depression of the 1930s – community fundraising, dedicated volunteers and generous donations helped to quite literally lift Flynn's dream off the ground. New technologies also made the service a lot more efficient, with more and more rural people receiving help. Transistor radios replaced Traeger's pedal radios, allowing doctors to start giving radio consultations from medical stations. "If you start something worthwhile," Flynn famously said, "nothing can stop it." And in the case of the RFDS, he was spot on. Clearly onto a good thing, his dedication to the organisation was unfaltering. He spent the next few decades developing the operation, creating a national network of flying doctors, obtaining funding and even investing in RFDS-owned aircrafts, which were previously on loan from QANTAS.

After the success of the original experimental base in Cloncurry, new bases were set up in a handful of other locations in 1934. Thanks to the radios, talk of the Flying Doctor spread across rural and remote communities, and the list of grateful patients grew longer and longer. But word spread further than Australia; inspired by the RFDS, other similar services began cropping up all over the world, from Morocco to Saskatchewan and the Scottish Highlands.

A lot has changed since Flynn's idea was first realised. The RFDS now gets financial support from the federal and state governments as well as community fundraising and donations. It has a fleet of 79 aircrafts, 23 air bases and 180 healthcare road vehicles. Behind emergency assistance, it offers appointments in clinics and medical centres across the bush and the Outback. It now even offers dental work, too. Alongside providing rural Australians with top-notch medical care, the RFDS has earnt a place in Australia's history: Reverend John Flynn's face can be found on the back of the twenty-dollar note, alongside a sketch of the original Victory and the first pedal radio.

Defining moment

Branching out

1934

As demand grows, the Australian Aerial Medical Service (as it was then known) begins to branch out even further. The Cloncurry experiment is a roaring success, so new Sections begin to open across the nation. Air bases and medical centres set up camp in the likes of Wyndham, Port Hedland, Kalgoorlie, Broken Hill, Alice Springs and Meekatharra. With the new locations comes a huge push for a national network for flying doctors. Now all it needs is an endorsement (and preferably sponsorship) from the government, as funding relies heavily on community fundraising and donations.

1932

Word spreads
During its first year of operations, the new medical service covers around 20,000 miles in 50 flights. Word quickly spreads, and house calls boom as more and more people in rural and remote Australia find out about the project.

1937

A female flying doctor
Since its conception, the service's roster of flying doctors is entirely made up of men. Dr Jean White becomes the first female doctor to join the skies in 1937 after starting work at the base in Normanton.

1942

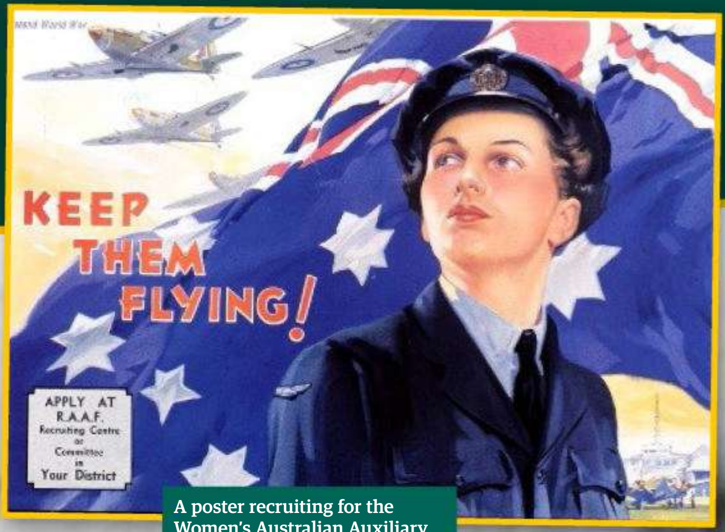
A change of name
Previously known as Australian Inland Mission Aerial Medical Service, the organisation is renamed as the Flying Doctor Service in 1942. 'Royal' is finally added to the start in 1955.

1951

Death of a pioneer
Reverend John Flynn dies on 5 May, aged 70. His ashes are placed under a boulder from the Devils Marbles in the Northern Territory. The rock is later returned to the Aboriginal community it was stolen from and replaced with an acceptable alternative.

1988

A legacy remembered
An important part of Australian history, John Flynn's image appears on the country's polymer $20 note in 1988. He is depicted surrounded by the RFDS's first plane, a pedal radio and a pain chart designed by a flying sister.


KEEP
THEM
FLYING!
APPLY AT
R.A.A.F.
Recruiting Centre
or
Committee
in
Your District

A poster recruiting for the Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force from c.1942

The 2/8th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, in action near El Alamein, Egypt, in 1942

Clouds of smoke billow from oil storage tanks that have just been hit in Japan's first air raid on Darwin, Australia

© Alamy, Wiki images

WORLD WAR II

When Britain declared war on Germany and its allies, Australia wasn't far behind

Words by Katharine Marsh

On 1 September 1939, World War II broke out. On 3 September, the voice of Australia's prime minister, Robert Gordon Menzies, rang out on every national and commercial radio station across the country: Australia would be joining the Allies.

In total, almost 1 million Australians would serve in the Mediterranean, North Africa, Japan and the wider Pacific. The Royal Australian Navy took part in operations against fascist Italy, while some pilots took part in the Battle of Britain. Every unmarried man over the age of 21 had to complete three months of mandatory military training in the Citizen Military Forces; this force was tasked with defending Australia and its territories while the 2nd Australian Imperial Force, made of volunteers, was sent abroad.

It was the entrance of Japan into the conflict in December 1941 that affected Australia most, though. The Japanese began systematically working their way down through the Pacific, occupying large swathes of southeast Asia by March 1942. When Singapore fell that February, an entire Australian division was lost… and when the city of Darwin was bombed soon after, Aussie ships in the Mediterranean were called back to defend the homeland. Japan could invade at any moment, and Australia needed to be ready.

Ultimately, the Japanese threat never came true. In fact, it began to look less and less likely as Australia and the Allies defeated them at the Coral Sea, Midway, Imita Ridge and more. Australian troops began taking out isolated Japanese garrisons through the Pacific in 1944, and they were battling it out in Borneo as the war drew to a close the following year.

Throughout the war, more than 30,000 Australian soldiers were taken as prisoners of war - two-thirds of them were captured by the Japanese in southeast Asia in 1942. 36 per cent of those captured by the Japanese would never see their homeland again.

Women were by no means left behind. While many joined the Women's Land Army, whose aim was to encourage women in rural industries, and some entered munitions production, others enlisted. In 1941, the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force and the Australian Women's Army Service were formed, and the navy began employing female telegraphists. A year later, the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service was founded.

AUSTRALIA'S THIN GREEN LINE

In 1942 Australia stood on the brink of invasion by the Japanese. Its last line of defence: citizen soldiers willing to lay their lives on the line in the hellish conditions of the Kokoda Trail

Words by Leigh Neville

In Australian history, Kokoda ranks only behind Gallipoli in terms of cultural importance and its impact on the Anzac (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) myth. The name is invoked in much the same manner as the battle at Anzac Cove as a kind of short-hand for a uniquely Australian version of the fabled 'Blitz spirit', a signifier of Aussie mateship against extreme adversary.

Despite this, the name of the campaign remains a bone of contention. Historians still argue Kokoda Trail versus Kokoda Track; the former has gained the upper hand in modern usage, while the latter was more commonly used by the Diggers themselves and in battalion records. According to the Australian War Memorial, keepers of Australian military history, both are equally correct.

In the popular imagination, the campaign stopped a Japanese invasion of mainland Australia, but historians have since discovered that the Japanese had decided against any such attempt. They concluded that they could never realistically occupy a landmass of such immense size. In 1942, however, the threat of invasion was very real for the average Australian. Japanese submarine attacks in Sydney Harbour and air raids against Darwin only added to that fear. One Kokoda veteran later explained; "We were fighting for Australia, on Australian soil for the first time (Papua was an Australian protectorate at the time). It was important that we won because if we didn't win who knows what would have happened."

A mountainous task

The battles that formed the Kokoda Campaign ran from mid-July to mid-November 1942; four months of close combat with a fanatical enemy in some of the most inhospitable terrain in the world. The Trail was a series of native tracks that crossed the Owen Stanley Mountain Range in what is now Papua New Guinea, from Owen's Corner near the capital of Port Moresby through the hot, wet jungle to the villages of Uberi and Ioribaiwa, where the path begins to rise dramatically. This section of the Trail ends in what became known to many young soldiers as the 'Golden Stairs' - 4,000 treacherously slippery steps cut into the mountainside.

From the 'Golden Stairs' the gruelling ascent continues to the village of Efogi, some 1,500 metres above sea level, and on to Myola, which would become an Australian forward base, at 2,000 metres in altitude. With each step, the temperature falls and the air becomes thinner. The Trail then peaks at what became known as Templeton's Crossing, some 2,500 metres above sea level, before beginning to finally descend across Eora Creek and through the tiny villages of Eora, Alola, Isurava, and Kokoda.

At the beginning of the Kokoda Campaign, there were only two under-strength Australian brigades stationed in Moresby; both comprised of inexperienced and poorly equipped teenage militia of the Australian Military Force (AMF). 39 Battalion and the Papuan Infantry Battalion of the AMF had been eventually dispatched across the Owen Stanleys to counter the possibility of a Japanese landing on the north-east coast. The Japanese beat them to it and landed their first troops around dusk on 21 July 1942 - they would be the first of an eventual landing force of more than 14,000.

The Japanese planned a two-pronged attack to capture Port Moresby - one across the Owen Stanleys to encircle the capital from the north, and the other as a direct amphibious assault against

© Alamy, Getty, Rex Features

Moresby. The latter was aborted following the Battle for the Coral Sea, which broke up much of the invasion fleet. Instead, the Japanese forces relied upon advancing along the Kokoda Trail to Moresby.

It was while advancing along this route that the first battle of the campaign occurred, fittingly at the village of Kokoda itself. A small Australian force, from 39 Battalion of the AMF, had been airlifted to the village to conduct a reconnaissance toward Buna, which was the suspected site of the Japanese landings.

The Australian militia, led by Captain Sam Templeton, soon ran into the advancing Japanese forces of the South Seas Detachment and, severely outnumbered, carried out a number of harassing actions to impede the enemy advance. Templeton's men managed to ambush the first Japanese troops approaching the village at Oivi but the Australians were soon surrounded. Templeton himself set out to warn the main Australian force but was shot and killed crossing Eora Creek. This was soon to be the famous crossing, named in his honour.

Eventually, the surviving Diggers fell back to Kokoda, but the Japanese captured the village on 29 July. Just 79 men briefly recaptured Kokoda on 9 August, before being counterattacked and driven away by around 1,500 Japanese, retreating to the village of Deniki and then Isurava, the next village down the Trail. It was here that the Australians were ordered to dig in and await reinforcement. The 39 Battalion soldiers were soon outnumbered by as many as ten to one, but Isurava was well placed with good fields of fire over the surrounding valley.

The first regular Australian Imperial Force (AIF) units to enter the campaign were sent to relieve these beleaguered militia soldiers, but the first two battalions were forced to stop short at Myola, after running out of rations. The men of 39 Battalion were just about holding on in Isurava, their uniforms and boots literally falling apart, and in dire need of food and ammunition. Their commander described them as; "worn out by strenuous fighting and exhausting movement, and weakened by lack of food and sleep and shelter." Despite this, they fought on. A veteran remembered; "We had to stay there - fight till death. And that was a bit horrifying. I thought, 'Well I won't see my family again. I won't see Australia again.' But I was prepared, like the rest of us, to stay there and fight to the finish."

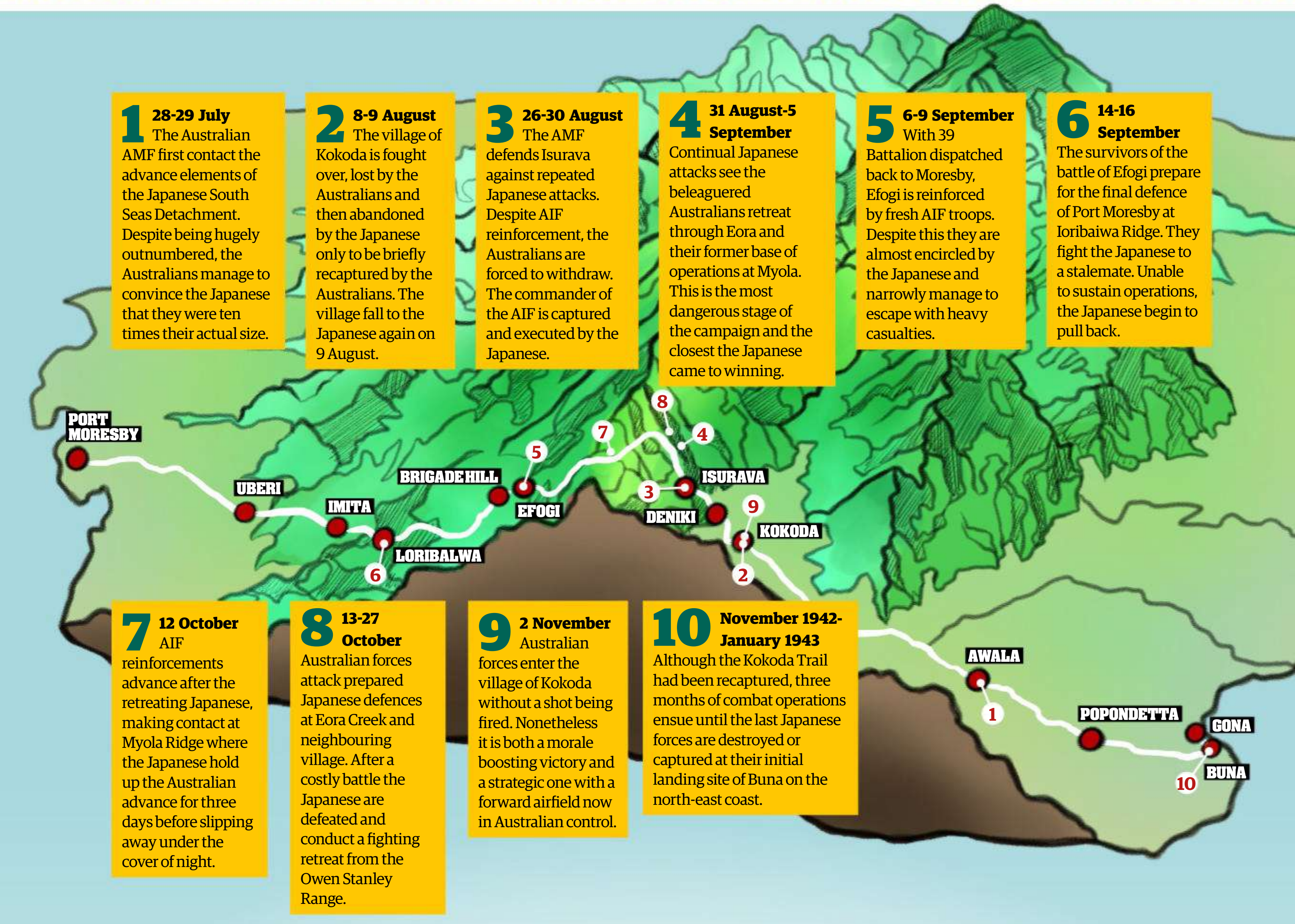
On 26 August, the Japanese attacked Isurava again, pushing the beleaguered defenders to their limits. AIF troops were beginning to arrive to the fight by this time, but so were Japanese reinforcements. The bitter fighting would continue for three days as the Australians were forced to again withdraw having suffered heavy casualties, principally from a well-positioned Japanese mountain gun.

It was on 29 August that one member of the AIF, Private Bruce Kingsbury, made a desperate charge at an enemy position. One of his mates saw what happened; "He came forward with this Bren (light machine gun) and he just mowed them down and he was an inspiration to everybody else around him. There were clumps of Japs here and there and he just mowed them down. He just went straight into 'em as if bullets didn't mean a thing... This Jap just appeared above the rock and fired one shot and vanished straight away. And I looked down and I saw Bruce and I grabbed him and took him up to Doc Duffy, to the RAP [Regimental Aid Post], but he was dead when he hit the ground". Kingsbury was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

After a second attack, during the night of 29 August, 39 Battalion and the reinforcements of the AIF slipped out of the village and withdrew to Eora Creek. Both the militia and AIF units had now suffered over 50 per cent casualties. At Templeton's Crossing, the starving men, described as 'gaunt scarecrows' by one medic, received their first hot meal in many weeks - a bully beef stew.

Relentless Japanese attacks, often supported by the mountain guns and mortars, saw the Australians forced to retreat even further south through their former base at Myola to the village of Efogi. Here they were reinforced by a fresh AIF battalion and the survivors of 39 Battalion were finally sent back to Moresby. Along the way, the Diggers continually harassed and slowed their enemy with ambushes and grim fighting withdrawals, making the Japanese pay for every inch of ground. The Japanese attacks continued

With vehicles being almost useless on the Trail, the Australians had to rely on airborne supplies or what they could carry themselves



1 28-29 July The Australian AMF first contact the advance elements of the Japanese South Seas Detachment. Despite being hugely outnumbered, the Australians manage to convince the Japanese that they were ten times their actual size.

2 8-9 August The village of Kokoda is fought over, lost by the Australians and then abandoned by the Japanese only to be briefly recaptured by the Australians. The village fall to the Japanese again on 9 August.

3 26-30 August The AMF defends Isurava against repeated Japanese attacks. Despite AIF reinforcement, the Australians are forced to withdraw. The commander of the AIF is captured and executed by the Japanese.

4 31 August-5 September Continual Japanese attacks see the beleaguered Australians retreat through Eora and their former base of operations at Myola. This is the most dangerous stage of the campaign and the closest the Japanese came to winning.

5 6-9 September With 39 Battalion dispatched back to Moresby, Efogi is reinforced by fresh AIF troops. Despite this they are almost encircled by the Japanese and narrowly manage to escape with heavy casualties.

6 14-16 September The survivors of the battle of Efogi prepare for the final defence of Port Moresby at Ioribaiwa Ridge. They fight the Japanese to a stalemate. Unable to sustain operations, the Japanese begin to pull back.

7 12 October AIF reinforcements advance after the retreating Japanese, making contact at Myola Ridge where the Japanese hold up the Australian advance for three days before slipping away under the cover of night.

8 13-27 October Australian forces attack prepared Japanese defences at Eora Creek and neighbouring village. After a costly battle the Japanese are defeated and conduct a fighting retreat from the Owen Stanley Range.

9 2 November Australian forces enter the village of Kokoda without a shot being fired. Nonetheless it is both a morale boosting victory and a strategic one with a forward airfield now in Australian control.

10 November 1942-January 1943 Although the Kokoda Trail had been recaptured, three months of combat operations ensue until the last Japanese forces are destroyed or captured at their initial landing site of Buna on the north-east coast.

TRAIL OF DEATH

Kokoda proved as much a resilient enemy as the Japanese. each day the Australians had to fight another war: against the terrain itself

Papua offered some of the hardest territory over which to fight a war. The region's tropical climate had an average annual rainfall of over 250 centimetres. These monsoonal downpours meant that a creek could become a raging river within an hour. In the mountains, which form the 'spine' of the country and the site for the famous battles at Templeton's Crossing, it was both cold and wet. At lower altitudes it was simply hot and wet instead.

The terrain of the Trail itself varied from treacherous ridge lines to valleys filled with Kunai grass and virtually impenetrable primary rainforest. It had a significant affect on the fighting. Visibility was very restricted meaning that most contacts with the enemy were at comparatively short range. Sub-machine guns and grenades were particularly favoured for this reason.

Any advance was slowed to a snail's pace as the Trail rapidly turned to sometimes knee-deep mud. The soldiers themselves were constantly wet and could never properly wash and dry their clothing or boots, contributing to dysentery and other illnesses. They were also constantly plagued by malaria-carrying mosquitos. In short it was, as once famously described by a Digger, "a bastard of a place".

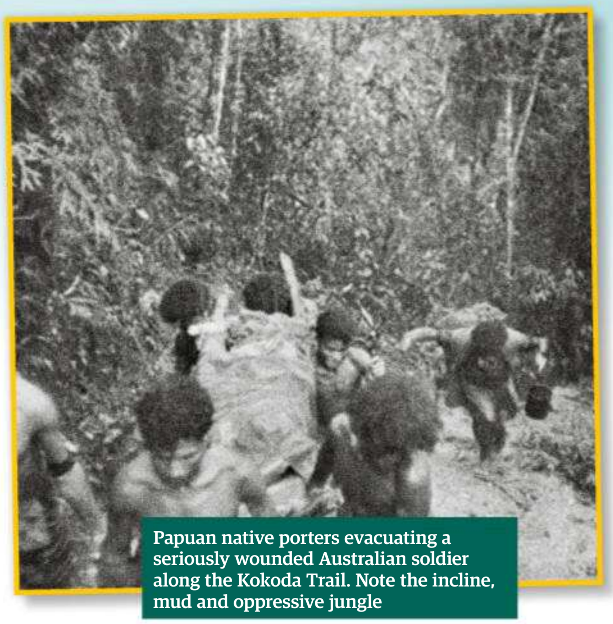

Papuan native porters evacuating a seriously wounded Australian soldier along the Kokoda Trail. Note the incline, mud and oppressive jungle

Illustration: Rebekka Hearl

"A week-long battle ensued at Templeton's Crossing and into Eora itself. More than 50 Diggers were killed in action and over 130 were wounded during this tenacious clash"

and, despite reinforcement by two further battalions, the Diggers were forced to fall back to Ioribaiwa Ridge, less than 50 kilometres from Moresby itself.

Fate plays its role

While the Kokoda Campaign was being waged in Papua, the US Marines had conducted a massive amphibious landing at Guadalcanal. If the Americans were able to capture the airstrip, they would have a stepping stone against the chain of Japanese held islands in the Pacific. For the Japanese, the advance against the Australians in Papua was taking too long against stiff resistance and commanders were nervous about over-committing to the capture of Moresby, especially while the US Marines fought back a major Japanese counter-attack on Guadalcanal. The enemy forces had finite resources (they had set out from Buna along the Trail with enough rations and water for only 12 days) and, with an already dangerously over-extended supply train, the decision was made to focus on defeating the Marine landings.

Late in September, the Japanese were forced to postpone their ambitions toward Port Moresby and instead were forced to conduct a withdrawal themselves, north along the Trail back to the village of Eora. As no Japanese term existed for 'retreat', the order instead called for an 'advance to the rear'. The delaying tactics employed by the Australians had paid off, slowing their enemy's advance until it was no longer a viable option. The Diggers had turned the tide of the conflict – now they were the attackers.

Fresh AIF troops advanced back up the Trail, reaching Menari without contacting the enemy. On 12 October, the advancing Australians made contact with the retreating Japanese at the battle of Myola Ridge, eventually flanking three Japanese detachments arrayed across the Trail.

The Australian troops pushed forward steadily, sending out reconnaissance parties to scout out the Japanese defences. As one veteran described it: "I'll never forget the first time I was forward scout… You were very lucky to survive, so you had a certain time [working as a scout], then somebody else took over, see. And you couldn't do anything, you only walked up the track. You were the bloke they were going to shoot at. Then you'd know there were Japs there."

The withdrawing Japanese 144 Regiment had been ordered to retreat to Eora Creek and construct defensive positions on the eastern slopes of the Track, south of Eora. These overlooked the natural barrier of the creek. The Japanese infantry were well supported by their own artillery, positioned to fire down the incline upon advancing Australian forces at a highly lethal angle.

Despite their well-sited positions and on-call artillery support, the Japanese defenders also faced a number of difficult challenges of their own. Their commander had been recently

A Papuan orderly helps a wounded Australian soldier on Christmas Day, 1942

These shells were carried the entire length of the Trail by the Japanese

THE 'CHOCOS' GO TO WAR

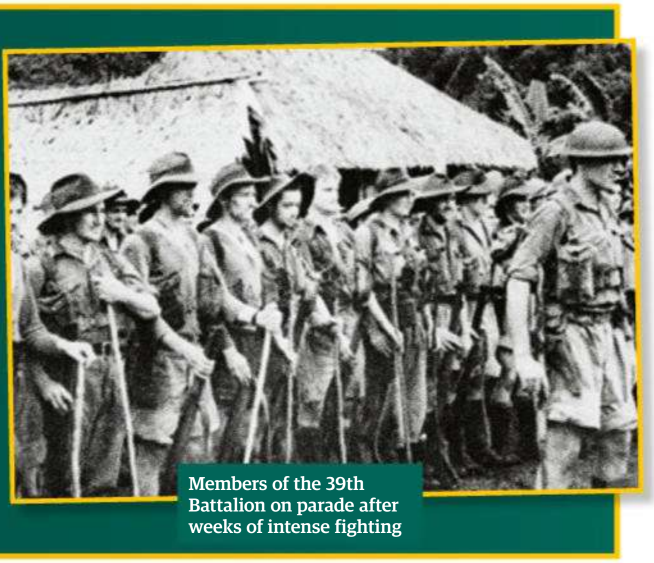
As a member of the Commonwealth, and the second nation to follow Great Britain in declaring war against Germany in 1939, Australia had dispatched the majority of its small volunteer army, known as the AIF or Australian Imperial Force, overseas in 1940-41.

While the AIF famously fought in Greece and North Africa, it was left largely to the conscripted militia, more officially known as the Australian Military Force (AMF), to defend the Australian territory and possessions.

The AMF was at the time composed of some 130,000 conscripts, most with little to no military experience. Initially, these men were, by law, to be used strictly for the defence of Australia and could not be dispatched overseas like the AIF. In reaction to Japan's lightning fast advance through Papua and with a distinct lack of regular troops available, the first AMF were sent to defend what was, at the time, officially Australian soil.

At best, these militia soldiers were given a month's worth of rudimentary training before they were sent to the jungles of Papua. The men averaged 18 years of age and were noticeably poorly equipped to face the Japanese. They were disparagingly called 'Chocos' by the regular AIF, arguing that the 'chocolate soldiers' of the AMF would melt in the sun (or in the heat of battle).

Others jokingly called them 'Koalas' after the famous native Australian marsupial – not to be exported or shot at! Remarkably, the term 'Choco' or 'Choc' remained within Australian military vernacular through Vietnam and is even in use today to denote Reserve soldiers.


Members of the 39th Battalion on parade after weeks of intense fighting

Australian gunners pose beside a captured Japanese artillery piece

replaced as he was required to attend a promotion exam back in Japan, precisely when the now demoralised troops needed continuity and a steady hand. They were also perilously low on rations; Australian troops later reported that there was evidence that many of the Japanese soldiers had been subsisting on grass, tree bark and plant roots. Ammunition was also dwindling.

A week-long battle ensued at Templeton's Crossing and into Eora itself. More than 50 Diggers were killed in action and over 130 were wounded during this tenacious clash. With ammunition, rations and rested troops, the Australians eventually overcame but not without heavy losses. A platoon commander remembered being fired upon by the Japanese mountain guns: "I had to stay at one stage above Eora Creek and the gun was firing… Every time he fired it, he fired it down the track and it hit somebody… That was probably the biggest test of ordinary personal courage that I ever had to undergo. And I don't want to undergo it again."

The enemy were now in full retreat, pulling back and leaving Kokoda undefended. A Digger wrote that the capture of the village of Kokoda on 2 November, nonetheless, was a significant morale boost for the Australians: "It meant so much. The aerodrome was ours, and that meant we would get better tucker [food] and comforts would come in." Disturbingly, the Japanese left their badly wounded behind: "We gave them grenades and we gave them instructions: 'When the enemy comes, you must throw the first grenade at the enemy and kill yourselves with the second grenade.' And then we left them there and we crossed the river. This is one of my worst memories of the war," recalled one Japanese officer.

The end of the beginning?

The Diggers had won the battle of the Kokoda Track, but three months of further brutal combat awaited them as they fought the remnants of the South Seas Detachment. In November, the Diggers, accompanied by American Army units, reached Buna and Gona on the north-east coast, the site of the original Japanese landings. In fact, despite American General Douglas MacArthur's protestations, the arrival of the first American unit in Papua forced him to belatedly recognise the resilience of the Australians and the AMF in particular. MacArthur had been a vocal critic of the Australians for much of the campaign.

An infantry battalion from the American 126th Regiment had arrived and were dispatched up a parallel trail known as the Kapa Kapa Trail. Despite not contacting a single enemy, the American unit took an astounding 42 days to cross the Owen Stanleys and the exhausted men – ridden with dysentery and malaria like the Australian forces – were classed as combat ineffective for a number of months afterward.

The Kokoda Campaign had been a war against the effects of disease and malnourishment as much as against the Imperial Japanese Army. A minimum of ten per cent of a unit's fighting strength was typically stricken with jungle diseases at any one time. Chief among these was dysentery caused by the appalling conditions and diet along with a lack of medical supplies to treat the condition.

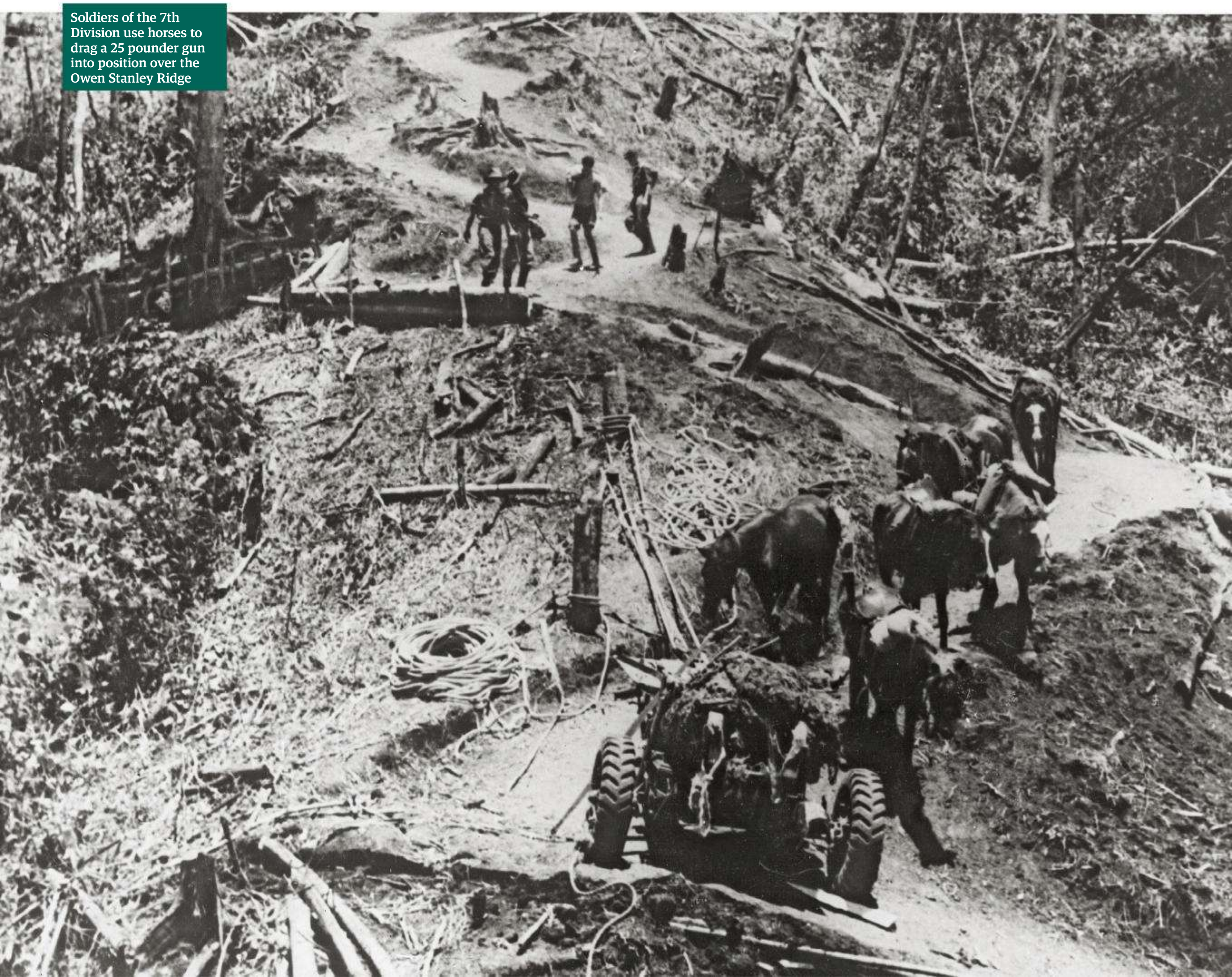
Casualties from the fighting and from jungle disease and malnutrition on both sides were often evacuated by native porters. Papuans working for the Australians were known affectionately, in the admittedly racist language of the time, as the 'Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels'. The Australian Air Force was supposed to fly casualties out from Myola but refused to do so, arguing it placed their aircraft at too great a risk. Instead, the wounded were carried out by the Papuans. The Japanese forces treated the Papuan natives rather more brutally and as little more than slave labour – many died or were executed by their captors after they themselves fell ill through overwork.

Resupply was the other key factor affecting combat performance in the jungles of Papua. For the Australians, the closest resupply was anywhere up to 160 kilometres away in Moresby. Everything had to be carried in on the backs of Diggers, Papuan porters and pack animals, or dropped from the air, a very unreliable procedure that saw many pallets disappear into the jungle. Food and ammunition were often scarce and both had to be conserved where possible. The author's own grandfather, then Lance Corporal Edward Farrelly, fought on the Track, and recalls routinely having less than two full magazines for his Thompson sub-machine gun. The Diggers, like soldiers in any war, were also often saddled with gear that wasn't fit for the unique environment they found themselves in.

For example, Farrelly recalls carrying a .55 Boys anti-tank rifle, only a trifling 16 kilograms (unloaded) in the sweltering scrub. It was useless due to the distinct lack of Japanese armour on the Track, something even a cursory examination of a map would have identified – it was hardly tank country. Apparently that particular Boys disappeared down a steep gully in an unfortunate 'accident'. Other weapons, like the Vickers medium machine gun that could have been decisive in the early battles on the Track, were inexplicably ordered to be left behind as they were thought to be too heavy to manoeuvre in the dense terrain.

The fighting was tough and often at close range with the Japanese typically preferring death rather than face capture and dishonour. An Australian veteran remembered the actions of one Japanese officer: "One of the [most] extraordinary sights I've ever seen, [was] when we encircled these Japs so we could capture the position and kill them all… A Japanese officer raced out with his sword, drawn sword, samurai sword, and one of our lieutenants grappled with him, and his weapon jammed.

"Just luck of the game, you know, it happens in every battle I suppose. And they grappled together and any rate, someone else came up, one of our chaps, and shot this Japanese who had so



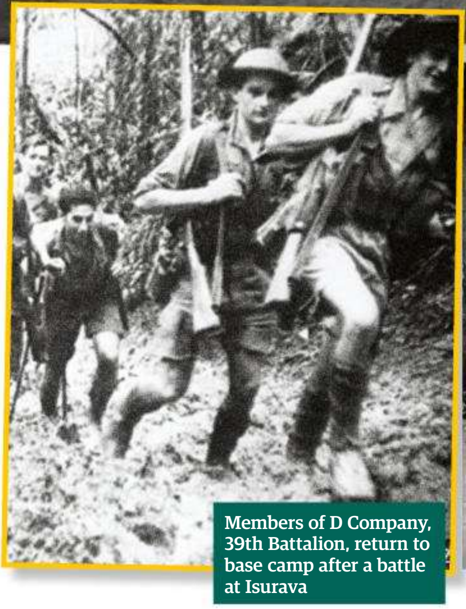
Soldiers of the 7th Division use horses to drag a 25 pounder gun into position over the Owen Stanley Ridge gallantly and bravely raced towards us waving his sword, you know, extraordinary sight, you wouldn't think you would see it in this 1942 war would you?"

In common with the later island-hopping campaigns in the Pacific, Kokoda was an exceptionally vicious operation in which no quarter was given by either side. Tales of Japanese atrocities only fuelled the 'shoot first, ask questions later' nature of the fight, where the taking of prisoners was an unusual occurrence. The Japanese also proved a skilful opponent, devising tactics to match the unique terrain. Another Digger wrote: "They are beauts at getting up the coconut trees and sniping. They seem to be everywhere, and I'll be blowed if I can see them. I don't know how they get up those coconut trees. I can't climb them stripped, yet they can take a machine gun up one."

Despite this ferocious opposition, disease, the lack of food and water and the jungle itself, the Australians were triumphant. Kokoda became the first time the Japanese were soundly defeated and, it was felt at the time by a grateful nation, that victory was the end of the spectre of invasion. General Sir William Slim commented after the war: "It was the Australians... who broke the spell of Japanese invincibility on land and inflicted on that arrogant army its first defeat."

Japanese casualties are unknown but are believed to number in the thousands. Over 1,600 Australian servicemen were wounded in action on the Trail, and 625 made the ultimate sacrifice in combat. They lost many more to malaria, dysentery and dengue fever. The former CO of the famous 39th Battalion, the late Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Honner, summed up the feelings of many when he said: "They died so young. They missed so much. They gave up so much; their dreams; their loved ones; they laid down their lives so that their friends might live. Greater love hath no man than this."

It is said that the native Papuans never left a wounded man behind, even in heavy combat



Members of D Company, 39th Battalion, return to base camp after a battle at Isurava

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

The small arms each side wielded in the cramped jungle conditions

JAPANESE ARMS

TYPE 38 RIFLE

CLIP CAPACITY: 5 RATE OF FIRE: 15 RPM’

Compared to most Japanese small arms, the bolt action Type 38 was a decent service rifle. Its 6.5mm round produced less recoil and muzzle flash than the standard Australian .303.

TYPE 92 MEDIUM MACHINE GUN

CLIP CAPACITY: 30 RATE OF FIRE: 450 RPM

The Japanese medium machine gun, the Type 92 was an unusual design fed from 30 round stripper clips. Diggers nicknamed it the Woodpecker thanks to its slow and steady rate of fire.

AUSTRALIAN ARMS

BREN LIGHT MACHINE GUN

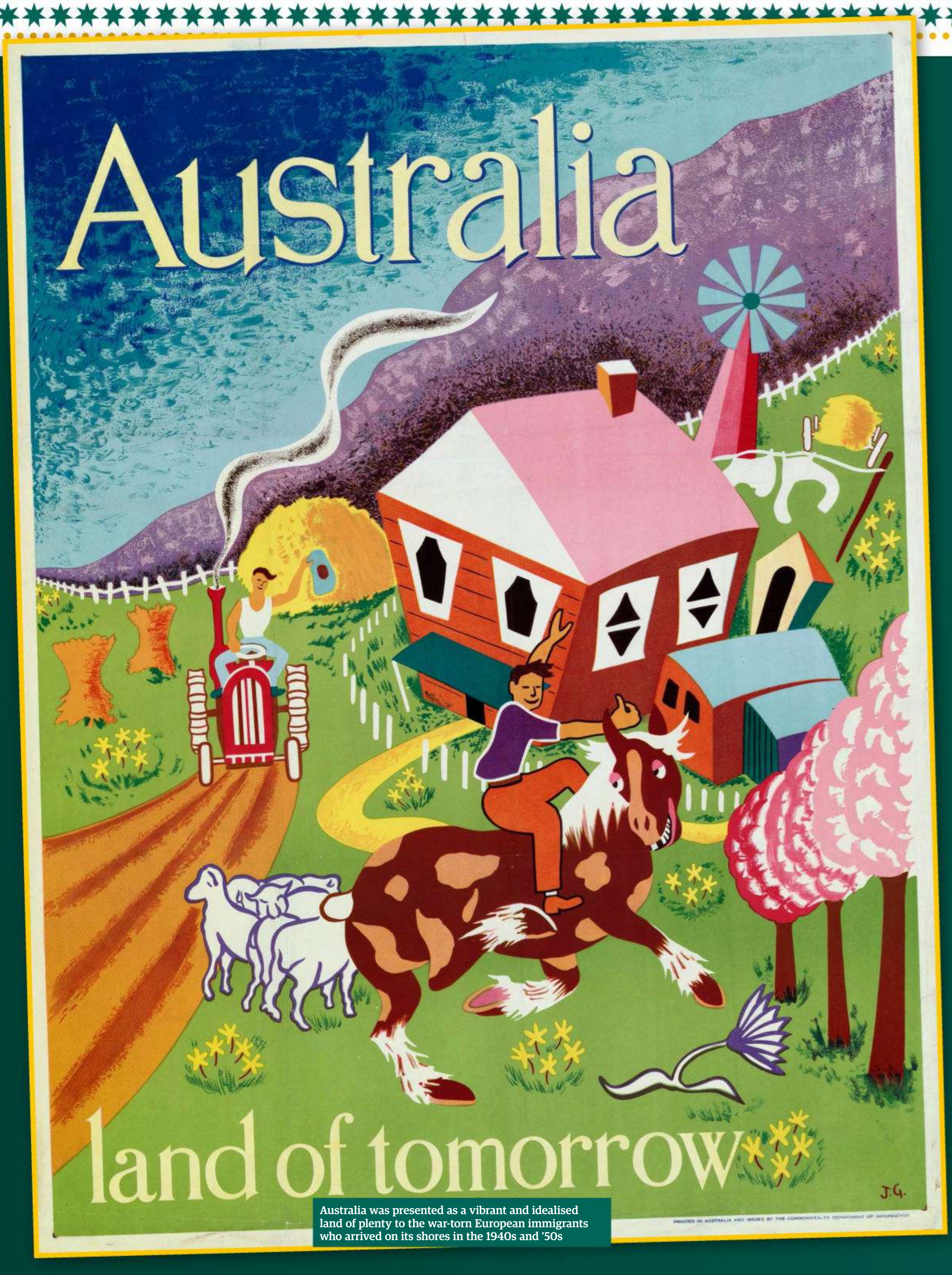
CLIP CAPACITY: 30 RATE OF FIRE: 500 RPM

The Bren light machine gun was accurate, comparatively light, and superbly reliable. The British design fired a .303 round (the same calibre as the Enfield rifle) from a top-mounted 30 round magazine.

OWEN MACHINE CARBINE

CLIP CAPACITY: 33 RATE OF FIRE: 700 RPM

The Owen sub-machine gun was an Australian designed replacement for the American Thompson. It first saw action in the closing stages of the Kokoda campaign where its light weight was prized.


Australia
land of tomorrow
J.G.
PRINTED IN AUSTRALIA AND ISSUED BY THE COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION

Australia was presented as a vibrant and idealised land of plenty to the war-torn European immigrants who arrived on its shores in the 1940s and '50s

NEW AUSTRALIANS

After World War II the Australian government realised that it needed to boost immigration for the sake of productivity and defence

Words by April Madden

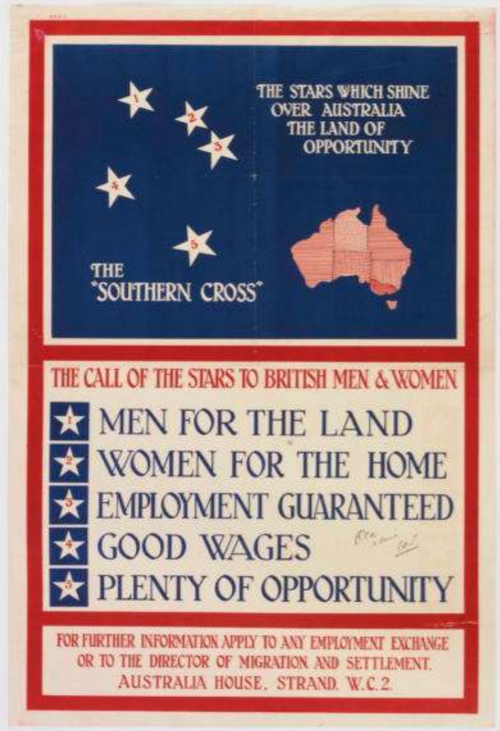
The Great Depression of the 1930s had hit Australia hard, and World War II followed hot on its heels. Although the war came with a high casualty count and the constant threat of invasion from Japan, it also boosted Australian industry, increasing GDP massively – by the end of 1943 it was triple what it had been in 1918. With men fighting on both the Kokoda Trail and in theatres of war further from home, more women entered the workforce, but even they weren't enough to keep production levels high. By the time the war ended, with the loss of more than 30,000 men and a further 65,000 injured, Australia found itself, for the first time in its unified history, in need of workers from outside.

Australia had come together in the years immediately preceding federation in 1901 to close ranks against unwanted economic migrants, but now it found itself actively recruiting both skilled specialists and manual workers for its booming manufacturing industries and government-assisted infrastructure programs. This recruitment was focused mainly on the British Isles, and included restarting the controversial Child Migration programme, in which orphaned British children, or those from families claiming welfare from their local authorities, were sent to Australia, ostensibly to be adopted and live a new life, but in reality to serve as cheap labour. The British and Australian governments have since apologised to the surviving migrant children and their descendants for the physical and emotional suffering that they endured through this programme.

Most postwar migrants to Australia, however, had a much better time of it. Employment was freely available, wages were reasonable – Australia had better labour laws than many immigrants' home countries – and, as a less populous country, houses could be bigger than they were in their home nations, and more of them had gardens. Standards of living were considerably higher than in war-ravaged Europe. Australians had experienced less wartime rationing of goods than their European counterparts – only tea, butter, sugar, meat, and clothing had been subject to controls – and most rationing ended in 1947. Tea and butter rationing persisted until 1950, but in Britain a lot of rationing didn't end until 1954, and on several occasions poor harvests and bad winters meant that rationing of some essentials was worse during the postwar years than in

© Wiki images

British migrants to Australia in 1949 smile on the deck of the Georgic, the vessel bringing them to the new life they had been promised



THE STARS WHICH SHINE
OVER AUSTRALIA
THE LAND OF
OPPORTUNITY

THE
"SOUTHERN CROSS"

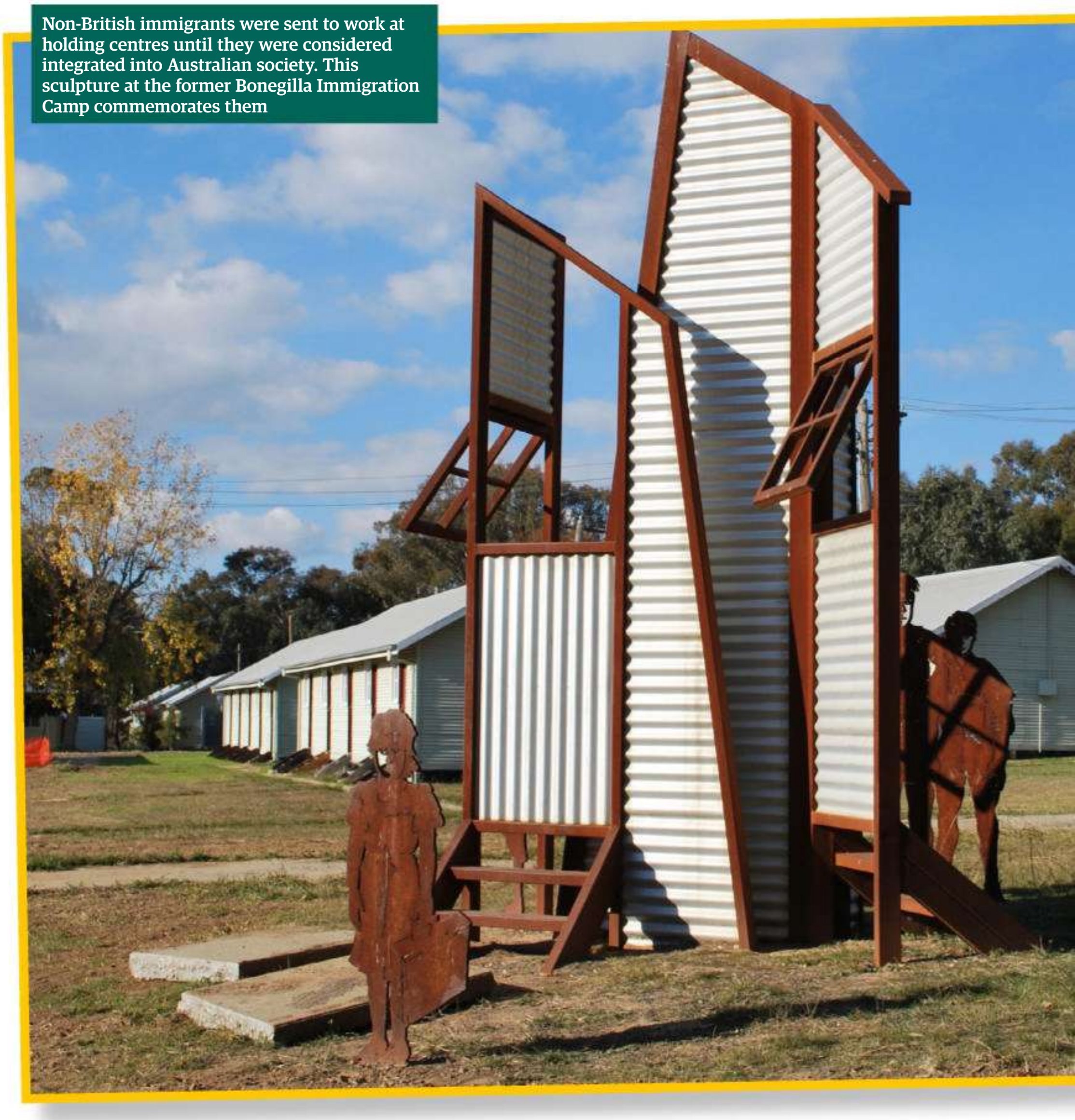
THE CALL OF THE STARS TO BRITISH MEN & WOMEN

- MEN FOR THE LAND
- WOMEN FOR THE HOME
- EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEED
- GOOD WAGES
- PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION APPLY TO ANY EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE
OR TO THE DIRECTOR OF MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT.
AUSTRALIA HOUSE, STRAND. W.C.2.

wartime. Although Australians were heartily sick of rationing by the time it ended, for newly arrived British migrants Australia was, by contrast, a land of plenty. For working-class immigrants coming from tiny back-to-back terraced homes in the bombed-out Victorian city slums of Britain, who had spent the best part of a decade eking out their limited subsistence foodstuffs, it must have seemed like paradise.

Despite its beguiling image, however, Australia couldn't source enough of the migrants it required from the UK alone – the aim had been nine Brits in every ten immigrants – and with some reluctance, it had to widen its pool to include more of the European nations. Having narrowly avoided the threat of invasion from Japan, Australia knew that it needed a larger adult population, and quickly, to defend the fledgling nation from any future threat, and Ben Chifley's Labor government set a target of growing the population by one per cent a year through immigration. Chifley's Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell, pursuing Australia's ideal of national pride and social cohesion, coined the term 'New Australians' for these arrivals in order to discourage the use of colloquial terms like 'pom' and 'pommy' to refer to English immigrants, or racial slurs to refer to people of non-white origin. The idea was that, once you arrived, you were no longer defined by your previous nationality; you were Australian, just like everybody else. Nonetheless, government officials still used legislation from the White Australia Policy to weed out migrants that they considered ethnically undesirable. The dictation test in the Immigration Restriction Act could be manipulated to ensure that would-be immigrants would fail. Migrants were supposed to be able to



Non-British immigrants were sent to work at holding centres until they were considered integrated into Australian society. This sculpture at the former Bonegilla Immigration Camp commemorates them

THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS SCHEME

Regarded by many as the foundation stone for Australian multiculturalism, the Snowy Mountains Scheme was a massive government-funded engineering project providing hydroelectricity and irrigation in southeast Australia. Between 1949 and 1974 the scheme built 16 dams, two pumping stations, nine power stations, and 225 kilometres (140 miles) of pipelines, tunnels and aqueducts through the Snowy Mountains, otherwise known as the Great Dividing Range. People came from around the world to work on the scheme; 70 per cent of its workers were migrants. Two of the towns constructed for these workers to live in are now permanent and thriving: Cabramurra, and Khancoban. Meanwhile the surrounding country has benefitted from the infrastructure that was built to support them. When the project was completed, the government kept much of this multicultural workforce on as employees of the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation. A documentary project featuring recollections by some of the workers, called *Snowy Stories*, is available on YouTube at https://tinyurl.com/y2bpxjk8

Prime Minister Ben Chifley (left) at the 1949 launch of the Snowy Mountains Scheme in Adaminaby, New South Wales

> "It took until 1975 for the last vestiges of the White Australia Policy to be removed from Australian immigration law, with the passing of the Racial Discrimination Act"

write 50 words dictated to them in a European language of the assessing officer's choice, which gave them ample opportunities to rig the results (with full but quiet encouragement and approval from their government superiors). In one famous pre-war instance, Czech Jewish activist Egon Kisch, fleeing from Nazi persecution, was given a test in Scots Gaelic. In another, a British woman, Mabel Freer, who had been born in India, was tested in Italian. Both later had their test failures overturned and were admitted to Australia, but the Act and its distinctly biased weighting weren't replaced until 1958, and it took until 1975 for the last vestiges of the White Australia Policy to be removed from Australian immigration law, with the passing of the Racial Discrimination Act.

Immigration from Britain dropped dramatically as the UK finally got back on its feet, and between 1953 and 1956, immigrants from southern Europe significantly outnumbered those from the UK. Southern European migrants of this era are largely responsible for the unique look of many suburbs today. Although migrants initially flocked to the inner cities, where work was, they were encouraged by the low prices of house-and-land deals to move out of city centres and build their own homes in what was then still the bush. Coming from Italy, Greece and the Balkans they had more experience with hot-weather architecture than the British, who favoured tall, narrow, multistorey buildings with small windows. This new wave of immigrants knew that single-storey bungalows were much more suited to the Australian climate, and many of them brought a wealth of carpentry, joinery, plumbing and building skills with them. They favoured large picture windows that let in the then-rural landscape views and the uniquely beautiful Australian light, brought toilets, utility rooms and bathing facilities indoors, and replaced insect-friendly floorboards with cool, clean, hermetically sealed tiling. Their wide gardens featured decorative and relaxing elements as well as food crops – most backyards included at least one fruit tree, veggies, flowers and shrubs, a lawn for kids to play on, and maybe even a pool. The architectural styles mixed mid-century European Bauhaus – all clean curved lines, raw brick, and terrazzo – with classical and Baroque influences like columns, pediments, and the ubiquitous stone lions out front. Often maligned by Anglo-Celtic Australians, for the rest of the world the style is synonymous with soap-opera suburbia, while at home it's finally receiving attention from designers and Instagrammers who love its sometimes kitsch aesthetic. Sadly, with higher population density eating up cities like Melbourne, this uniquely Australian suburban landscape is falling prey to developers, as the large gardens take up tracts of land now needed for new housing.

While government leaflets assured Australians that unskilled non-British immigration was necessary for "work which is not generally acceptable to Australians or British workers", the boom in immigration from other nations was a cause of alarm and consternation to a society that still openly practised racial bias. The Liberal-Country Party coalition government under Prime Minister Robert Menzies addressed this perceived crisis by offering financial incentives to both would-be British immigrants, and former ones that were now settled Australians, who might encourage British friends and family to move out. The Bring Out A Briton campaign resulted in British immigrants once more outnumbering their international counterparts. They were so heavily subsidised that at one point they were known as 'Ten Pound Poms' as that's all it cost them to travel under the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme. Famous Australians who started out as Ten Pound Poms (or their free-travelling children) include former Prime Ministers Tony Abbott and Julia Gillard, pop band the Bee Gees, and Malcolm and Angus Young of rock band AC/DC, while Kylie Minogue and Hugh Jackman both had parents who migrated to Australia thanks to the scheme. Despite the advantages that favoured them, however, roughly a quarter of British migrants didn't apply for Australian citizenship, and many of these left the country after a relatively short period of time.

In the 1970s, the last of the White Australia Policy was pruned from immigration law, and cultural selectivity in immigration policy was discontinued, kickstarting a wave of Asian immigration to Australia that has continued to the present day. Today, Australia is a vibrant, multicultural nation that has committed itself to addressing and learning from the biased errors of the past. One good thing remains from the old ideology though: everybody, while celebrating whatever background they originally came from, is proudly considered by the vast majority of their local and national community to be an Australian, just like them.

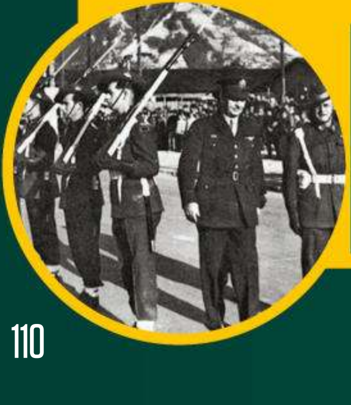
TIMELINE OF THE…
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

Known as the 'RAR', this infantry force is a senior regiment in the Australian Army and has seen extensive action in major wars during its history

1948-49

FORMATION

After World War II, the small regular Australian Army is established, and a new volunteer brigade is deployed to the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan in 1948. The three battalions of this brigade are then designated as the 'Royal Australian Regiment' on 10 March 1949.



American General Robert L. Eichelberger inspects Australian troops at Kure, Japan at the British Commonwealth Occupation Force headquarters

1950-53

KOREAN WAR

Korea is the first real test of the RAR. All three of its battalions serve during the war and the Third Battalion (3 RAR) receives the US Presidential Unit Citation for halting a Chinese breakthrough at the Battle of Kapyong.

Soldiers from C Company, 3 RAR watch for enemy troops in Korea while a village burns as a result of incendiary bullets, November 1950

1955-66

MALAYA AND BORNEO

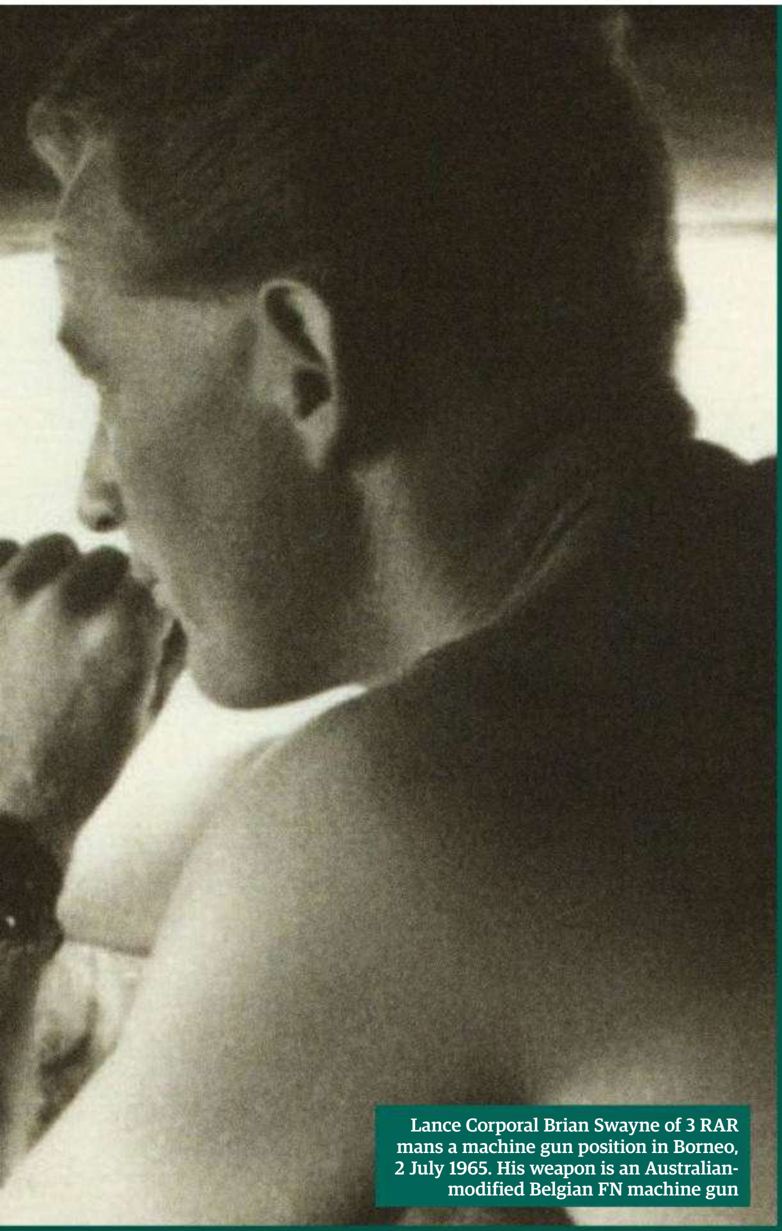
The RAR participates in the Malayan Emergency and then the Indonesia-Malaysia Confrontation in Borneo, fighting communist guerrillas and Indonesian troops. In both conflicts the regiment fights as part of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve.

1965-71

VIETNAM WAR

The RAR is expanded to nine battalions between 1964-66 and is twice deployed to fight in Vietnam as an ally of the USA. The regiment receives battle honours as well as two foreign citations – from the United States and South Vietnam.

Soldiers of B Company, 7 RAR prepare to board US Army helicopters after an operation on 26 August 1967



Lance Corporal Brian Swayne of 3 RAR mans a machine gun position in Borneo, 2 July 1965. His weapon is an Australian-modified Belgian FN machine gun

12 May-6 June 1968

BATTLE OF CORAL-BALMORAL

Battalions 1 and 3 RAR fight in Australia's largest, most sustained battle of the Vietnam War. North Vietnamese troops engage elements of the First Australian Task Force in fierce actions around Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral, east of Lai Khe. 25 Australians are killed compared to almost 300 North Vietnamese fatalities.

RAR soldiers defend a position at FSB Coral, May 1968. The RAR fights with other Australian units, such as artillery and armoured regiments

January-May 1993

OPERATION SOLACE

1 RAR is deployed to Somalia as part of a UN task force to provide security for humanitarian relief during a period of famine and civil war in the country. The battalion is successful in reducing violence and interference with aid work.

RAR soldiers board a US Marine Corps helicopter in Somalia while escorting bags of grain to the village of Maleel

1994-95

UN ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA

Elements of the RAR are sent to Rwanda as UN peacekeepers. Members of 2 RAR witness the Kibeho massacre of 4,000 Hutu refugees by the Rwandan Patriotic Army in April 1995. During the incident Australian medics and infantrymen bravely attempt to assist refugees under fire.

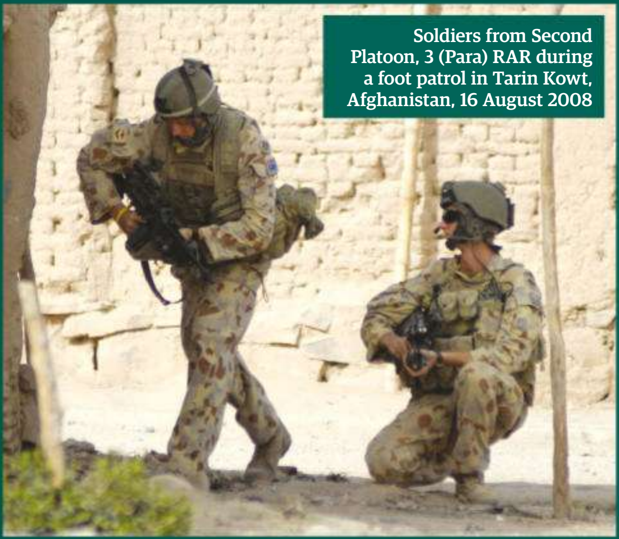
Image: Getty

An Australian UN soldier carries a Hutu orphan whose mother was killed during the Kibeho massacre. Four Medals for Gallantry were awarded to Australian peacekeepers who intervened to save lives

2003-present

WARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

Australia joins the US-led coalition during the Iraq War and the RAR takes part in counter-insurgency operations. The regiment also participates in operations in Afghanistan from 2006, including the Battle of Derapet in August 2010. To date, 12 RAR personnel have been killed in Afghanistan.



Soldiers from Second Platoon, 3 (Para) RAR during a foot patrol in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan, 16 August 2008

WESTERN PACIFIC DEPLOYMENTS

The regiment saw extensive action between 1950-72, from the freezing conflict in Korea to the jungles of Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam

1 BATTLE OF YONGJU

YONGJU, NORTH KOREA

21-22 October 1950

Yongju is the first action of Australian troops in Korea. 3 RAR launch a fierce surprise attack against North Korean snipers from their rear. The North Koreans retreat after three hours of fighting.

Men of C Company, 3 RAR move to attack 'Hill 587' on the Korean Peninsula, 1 March 1951

2 BATTLE OF CHONGJU

CHONGJU, NORTH KOREA

29-30 October 1950

3 RAR encounters a North Korean defensive line of 500-600 men. The battalion fights all night against infantry and tank attacks, killing 150 of the enemy while suffering nine fatalities.

3 BATTLE OF KAPYONG

KAPYONG RIVER, SOUTH KOREA

22-25 April 1951

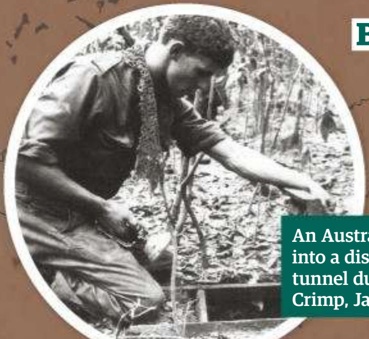
Kapyong is the most important Australian battle during the Korean War. Chinese troops continually attack 3 RAR's hill positions, but the Australians contribute significantly to a UN victory that saves Seoul.

4 BATTLE OF MARYANG SAN

NEAR IMJIN RIVER, KOREA

3-8 October 1951

A combined 3 RAR-British operation attacks a series of hills, including Maryang San, near the Imjin River. In five days of heavy fighting, 3 RAR dislodges a numerically superior Chinese force from a position of great strength.



An Australian soldier looks into a discovered Viet Cong tunnel during Operation Crimp, January 1966

BATTLE OF SUOI BONG TRANG

TAN BINH, BINH DUONG PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM

23-24 FEBRUARY 1966

OPERATION CRIMP

CU CHI, BINH DUONG PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM

8-14 JANUARY 1966

OPERATION HUMP

BIEN HOA, SOUTH VIETNAM

5-8 NOVEMBER 1965

OPERATION BRIBIE

AP MY AN, PHUOC TUY PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM

17-18 FEBRUARY 1967

BATTLE OF SUOI CHAU PHA

PHUOC TUY PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM

6 AUGUST 1967

BATTLE OF NUI LE

PHUOC TUY PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM

21 SEPTEMBER 1971

6

5

7

8

BATTLE OF GANG TOI

GANG TOI HILLS, DONG NAI PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM

8 NOVEMBER 1965

OPERATION COBURG

TRANG BOM, DONG NAI PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM

24 JANUARY-1 MARCH 1968

MALAYAN EMERGENCY

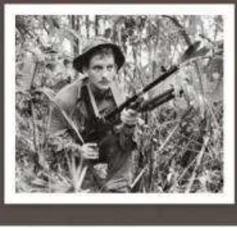
MALAY PENINSULA

1955-64

BATTLE OF LONG KHANH

DONG NAI PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM

6-7 JUNE 1971



Private Neville Ferguson of 3 RAR moves cautiously through the jungle with a Bren light machine gun, near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border in Borneo, 1965

BATTLE OF SUNGEI KOEMBA

SUNGEI KOEMBA RIVER, INDONESIA

27 MAY-12 JUNE 1965

BATTLE OF BABANG

BABANG, KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

12 JULY 1965

BATTLE OF KINDAU

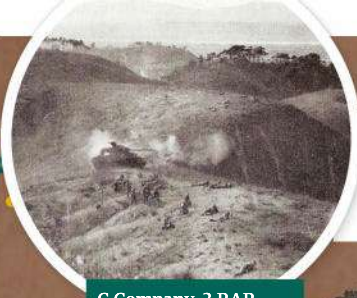
KINDAU, KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

15 JUNE 1965

OPERATION CLARET

SARAWAK AND SABAH, EAST MALAYSIA AND KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

JULY 1964-JULY 1966



C Company, 3 RAR pictured with American tanks while engaging the enemy, November 1950

BATTLE OF PAKCHON
PAKCHON, NORTH KOREA
5 NOVEMBER 1950

BATTLE OF THE SAMICHON RIVER
JAMESTOWN LINE, SAMICHON RIVER, KOREA
24-26 JULY 1953

5 BATTLE OF LONG TAN

LONG TAN, PHUOC TUY PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM

8 August 1966

105 men of 6 RAR (along with three New Zealand soldiers) are surrounded by 1,500-2,500 North Vietnamese troops. The Anzacs inflict hundreds of casualties over three hours, and the battle becomes the defining moment for Australia during the Vietnam War.

Australian signallers at Long Tan waiting to return to base, August 1966

"With armoured support, the Australians, unusually, participate in intense house-to-house fighting over two days. 5 RAR suffers only one fatality compared with 107-126 North Vietnamese casualties"

6 BATTLE OF CORAL-BALMORAL

LAI KHE, BINH DUONG PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM

12 May-6 June 1968

1 and 3 RAR defend fire support bases (FSB) in a series of engagements 40 kilometres (25 miles) northeast of Saigon. 25 Australians are killed, along with 99 wounded, during attacks on FSBs Coral and Balmoral, but the result is a significant victory.

A soldier from 9 RAR aims his rifle down a Viet Cong underground bunker during Operation Goodwood, 22 January 1969

7 BATTLE OF HAT DICH

HAT DICH, SOUTH VIETNAM

3 December 1968-19 February 1969

1, 4 and 9 RAR lead a series of allied actions against suspected North Vietnamese bases. Codenamed 'Operation Goodwood', the Australians conduct sustained patrolling over 78 days and force the North Vietnamese to abandon their bases in the Hat Dich area.

8 BATTLE OF BINH BA

BINH BA, PHUOC TUY PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM

6-8 June 1969

5 RAR is deployed to remove North Vietnamese forces from Binh Ba. With armoured support, the Australians, unusually, participate in intense house-to-house fighting over two days. 5 RAR suffers only one fatality compared with 107-126 North Vietnamese casualties.

The aftermath of the fighting at Binh Ba. The battle was characterised by brutal house-to-house fighting

Images: Alamy, FreeVectorMaps.com

KAPYONG 1951

This intense battle was the most significant of the Korean War for the RAR, whose Third Battalion helped save Seoul from communist occupation

3 RAR had landed in South Korea at Pusan in September 1950 as part of the 27th British Commonwealth Infantry Brigade. The brigade was serving in a UN force to restore peace on the Korean Peninsula, and 3 RAR immediately began participating in the northern advance to the Yalu River.

The battalion spent much of the winter of 1950-51 fighting in harsh, hilly terrain against the Chinese and North Koreans in battles at Yongju, Kujin and Chongju. By the spring of 1951 the Chinese had withdrawn to the 38th Parallel but were actually luring the UN into a vulnerable position in order to launch a major counterattack. This came on 22 April 1951 when the Chinese began their 'Spring Offensive' and defeated the South Korean Sixth Division. The Chinese objective was to capture Seoul, and the South Koreans had been overrun defending a major approach route to the valley of the Kapyong River.

The 27th British Commonwealth Brigade now had to occupy hastily assembled defensive positions approximately 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of the 38th Parallel on 23 April. 3 RAR and 2 PPCLI (Second Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry) were assigned forward hilltop positions on either side of the seven-kilometre (four-mile) wide Kapyong valley. Other troops included the British Middlesex Regiment, which was held in reserve, and fire support units including American tanks and New Zealand artillery. Facing them in superior numbers were 6,000 Chinese soldiers.

© Getty images

A soldier of C Company, 3 RAR leans against the wall of a captured Chinese trench, April 1951

Chinese troops pursue soldiers of the South Korean Sixth Division before the Battle of Kapyong

The Australians hold firm

3 RAR was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Ferguson, an experienced WWII veteran who had taken over command of the battalion after his predecessor, Charles Green, had been killed at the Battle of Chongju. Over the next two days he would lead 3 RAR in the most testing circumstances, and it was the Australians who bore the brunt of the initial fighting.

During the early evening of 23 April, retreating South Koreans passed through the Commonwealth positions, but they were intermingled with Chinese troops. The platoon of American tanks that was supporting 3 RAR was overrun and the brigade was too thinly spread along the Kapyong valley, which meant that individual battalions largely fought alone.

The Australians were repeatedly attacked by the Chinese throughout the night of 23-24 April. The Chinese would assault in waves with such tenacity that they frequently advanced over their own dead and wounded. Units of 3 RAR fought a dogged defence against these attacks, particularly A and B Companies. A Company, which was commanded by Major Bernard O'Dowd, was infiltrated by the Chinese at dawn, but the Australians ejected them with a counterattack. Meanwhile B Company was engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with grenades and bayonets, who were occupying old bunkers.

At this stage O'Dowd radioed for assistance from the US First Marine Division, but the Americans believed that 3 RAR had been wiped out. O'Dowd famously replied, "I've got news for you, we are still here and we are staying here."

Withdrawal to victory

The Canadians, who had also faced similar attacks, had already been cut off and were resupplied by airdrop. The Australians kept fighting throughout 24 April, but they were forced to withdraw from their ridge on Hill 504 to rejoin the brigade. The Canadians held their position, and eventually the Chinese attacks stopped.

By 25 April the road through to the Canadians had been cleared, and American units relieved 2 PPCLI. Thanks to 3 RAR and the Canadians, the Chinese advance had been halted, and by coincidence the UN victory was secured on Anzac Day.

The statistics of the Battle of Kapyong were staggering: 32 Australians and ten Canadians had been killed, but the Chinese had suffered casualties of at least 2,000 – a casualty rate of approximately one in three. The Battle of Kapyong stalled the Chinese Spring Offensive, and by late May UN forces had advanced back to the 38th Parallel, a line that still marks the North-South Korean border today.

For his leadership of 3 RAR during the battle, Bruce Ferguson was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, while the battalion, as well as the Canadians, received the US Presidential Unit Citation from President Harry S. Truman for their bravery at Kapyong.

3 RAR 'OLD FAITHFUL'

Initially formed as one of three original battalions in the Royal Australian Regiment, 3 RAR began its life as the 67th Battalion in the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan in 1945. The battalion's proud service record includes deployments to Japan, Korea, Malaya, Borneo, South Vietnam, East Timor, the Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Of these deployments, 3 RAR has received six battle honours, for actions at Yongju, Chongju, Uijeongbu, Kapyong, Maryang San and Coral-Balmoral. The majority of these battles were fought during the Korean War, and 3 RAR has the distinction of being the only battalion in the regiment to have ever received a US Presidential Unit Citation.

The battalion's most recent deployment was serving in Afghanistan in 2012 to train the Fourth Brigade, 205th Corps in the Afghan National Army. 3 RAR is universally nicknamed within the regiment as 'Old Faithful' for its doggedly loyal fighting spirit.

Lieutenant Tyson Yew leads his 3 RAR platoon through the Afghan town of Tarin Kowt as part of the International Security Assistance Force, 16 August 2008

RAR HEROES AND COMMANDERS

The Royal Australian Regiment's highly professional personnel have included courageous troops, knights and a Victoria Cross recipient

Image: Getty

Following his investiture of the Victoria Cross for Australia, Keighran met Queen Elizabeth II and the Prince of Wales at formal meetings and events in the United Kingdom

Daniel Keighran

The first member of the RAR to be awarded the VC **1983- Corporal**

Although Mark Donaldson and Benjamin Roberts-Smith are both former RAR personnel who have subsequently won the Victoria Cross, Daniel Keighran is the first VC recipient to receive the award while serving in the regiment. Keighran joined the Australian Army on 5 December 2000 and was posted to 6 RAR after his initial training. Between 2001-06 Keighran was deployed to Malaysia, Timor-Leste and Iraq, before eventually serving in Afghanistan between 2007-10. It was during his second Afghanistan deployment that Keighran (by then a corporal) was awarded the Victoria Cross. On 24 August 2010 Keighran was part of a combined Afghan-Australian fighting patrol that engaged a numerically superior force of Taliban insurgents, in an encounter that later became known as the 'Battle of Derapet'.

The patrol came under attack from heavy machine gun and small arms fire, but Keighran moved forward and deliberately drew enemy attention onto himself to help identify targets. Keighran continually moved around an exposed ridge, leading his team and directing fire while constantly under attack. At one point, Keighran moved 100 metres (109 yards) over the ridge and exposed his position four times, drawing attention away from a medical team that was treating an Australian casualty. During the battle it was noted that Keighran repeatedly fought with "exceptional courage" and a "complete disregard for his own safety." The fight at Derapet ended as an Afghan-Australian victory, with only one Australian fatality compared to at least 30 Taliban dead.

Keighran's VC citation concluded that, "His valour is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army", and he was subsequently invested with the award in Canberra on 1 November 2012 for "the most conspicuous acts of gallantry and extreme devotion to duty in action in circumstances of great peril at Derapet". Keighran continues to serve in the Australian Army Reserves.

Keighran being saluted by General David Hurley after receiving the Victoria Cross in 2012

Sir Frank Hassett

The inspirational officer who led 3 RAR to victory at the Battle of Maryang San

1918-2008 General

Hassett was accepted into the Royal Military College in Sydney at the age of 16 and was a promising officer. He fought in North Africa during WWII and became the youngest army officer to become a lieutenant colonel, at the age of 23. By the early 1950s Hassett was working as a staff officer in Australia, but his actions during the Korean War would make his reputation. In March 1951 Hassett joined the RAR and led the First and Third Battalions. He was sent to Korea while commanding 3 RAR and led it during the Battle of Maryang San, between 3-8 October 1951. This dramatic UN victory saw Hassett exposing himself to artillery, mortar and small arms fire while he led 3 RAR against numerically superior Chinese positions on Hill 355. His men considered him to be an inspirational leader, and he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his bravery. Hassett later became the chief of the Defence Force staff and he was knighted in 1976.

Hassett pictured in Korea, July 1951. After he retired in 1977 Hassett was appointed as the colonel commandant of the Royal Australian Regiment

Harry Smith

The courageous victor of the Battle of Long Tan

1933- Lieutenant Colonel

Smith joined the Australian Army as a private and graduated as a second lieutenant from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, Victoria, in December 1952. He joined 2 RAR and first saw active service during the Malayan Emergency between 1955-57. By the mid-1960s Smith had been promoted to major and was the commanding officer of D Company, 6 RAR between June 1966-June 1967 during the Vietnam War. On 18 August 1966 D Company encountered a regimental-sized North Vietnamese force that was preparing to advance on the Australians' base. With only 108 men, Smith managed to offer a fierce defence during a monsoon while waiting for reinforcements. Over 200 North Vietnamese were killed compared to 18 Australians. Smith was awarded the Military Cross for his leadership. In 2008 Smith's MC was upgraded to the Star of Gallantry - second only to the VC.

Charles Green

The first RAR battalion commander to be killed in action

1919-50 Lieutenant Colonel

A fellow officer said of Green that, "Troops would follow Charlie anywhere because he understood them and they understood he was fair dinkum"

Green's initial military career was as a militiaman in New South Wales before he joined the Australian Imperial Force in 1939 as an officer. He fought in Greece and the Aitape-Wewak campaign during WWII and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

After demobilisation in November Green returned to civilian life, but rejoined the Australian armed forces in 1949 and was given command of 3 RAR in September 1950. The battalion was moved to South Korea the following month, with 3 RAR advancing northwards and contributing to the UN victory at Yongju between 21-22 October 1950. The battalion was in action again days later at the Battle of Chongju.

On 30 October an enemy shell exploded near Green's tent and severely wounded him in the abdomen. When he died two days later it was said that his death "cast a pall of gloom over his battalion". Nevertheless, the fighting at Chongju ended in a UN victory and the USA posthumously awarded Green the Silver Star.

Sir Phillip Bennett

The notable officer who served with the RAR in Korea and Vietnam

1928- General

Born in Perth, Western Australia, Bennett was commissioned as a lieutenant in December 1948 and was one of the first officers to join the RAR with the Allied Occupation Force in Japan in 1949.

Bennett then saw extensive action with 3 RAR during the Korean War, where he was wounded in action on 14 October 1950. He remained on duty and was mentioned in dispatches in 1951, and remained in Korea until the end of the war.

During the Vietnam War, Bennett commanded 1 RAR between 1968-69 and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his command of the battalion. This was an intense period for 1 RAR that included the battles of Coral-Balmoral and Hat Dich.

Bennett went on to become the chief of the Defence Force, was knighted in 1983 and was appointed as the governor of Tasmania in 1987.

Kelly helped to plan Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq, while acting as the first director of the Combined Planning Group in the US Central Command

Mark Kelly

The current colonel commandant of the Royal Australian Regiment

1956- Major General

Queen Elizabeth II and Sir Peter Cosgrove, the governor-general of Australia, are the symbolic heads of the RAR as colonel-in-chief and colonel of the regiment respectively. Nevertheless, the highest practical title of colonel commandant belongs to Major General Mark Kelly, who is the present commander of the regiment.

In the Australian Army the colonel commandant has a quasi-honorary role to act as an advocate for the troops' interests. Kelly is required to visit troops wherever the regiment is deployed and he has an extensive history with the RAR.

Kelly joined 5/7 RAR in the 1970s and was first deployed to Rhodesia with the Commonwealth Monitoring Force between 1979-80. He went on to command 1 RAR and served as chief of staff for the International Force in East Timor (1999-2000) and had command of all Australian forces in Afghanistan and the Middle East in 2009. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his "distinguished leadership, exceptional professionalism and unwavering dedication".

RAR IN VIETNAM

The regiment was arguably the most significant military component of Australia's involvement in the deeply controversial conflict

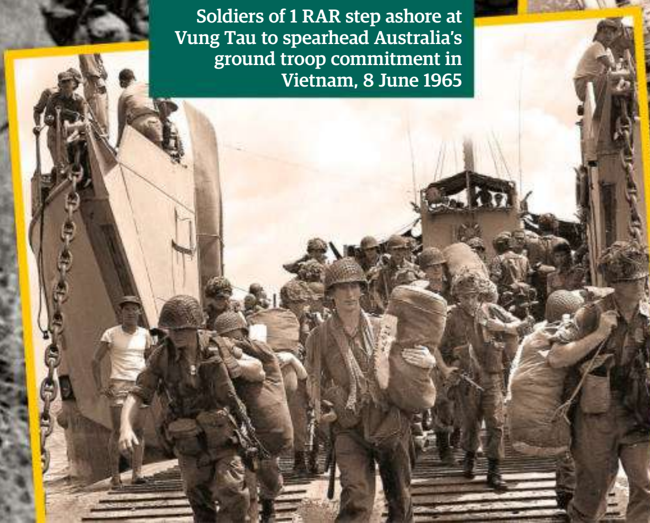
Words by Ben Gazur

For the United States, the Vietnam War was a humiliating disaster that broke its military aura of invincibility and cost many lives. It is often assumed that the USA fought alone to support South Vietnam against North Vietnamese forces, but the Americans actually received significant military support from regional allies, including Australia and New Zealand.

The Australian contribution was significant, and between 1962-73 almost 60,000 members of its armed forces served in Vietnam, which included ground troops as well as air and naval personnel. 521 Australians were killed and over 3,000 more were wounded during the war. In many ways Australia's Vietnam experience was a reflective microcosm of the USA's: domestic opposition was huge and there were hostile protests, bitter politics and strong resistance to draft conscription.

Since WWII, Australia had adopted a 'forward defence' strategy that aimed at making small and effective military commitments, in order to keep Britain and increasingly the USA committed to security in Southeast Asia. Australia had already shown dedication to this policy by deploying troops (including large numbers of the RAR) to wars in Korea, Malaya and Borneo in order to prevent communist insurgencies from undermining regional stability. In this sense, Australian politicians saw the situation in

A protest march against Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, May 1970. Hundreds of thousands of people protested throughout Australia during the late 1960s and early 1970s



Soldiers of 1 RAR step ashore at Vung Tau to spearhead Australia's ground troop commitment in Vietnam, 8 June 1965

© Getty Images, Wikimages

Vietnam was similar to previous conflicts, but the war would leave a bitter legacy.

A substantial deployment

Australian military advisors first arrived in Vietnam in 1962 as part of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) and transport aircraft from the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) followed in 1964. In early 1965 the United States began a major escalation of the war and asked for support from allies, including Australia. 200,000 American troops were now fighting in Vietnam, and the Australian government followed suit by despatching 1 RAR in June 1965 to serve alongside the US 173rd Airborne Brigade in Bien Hoa province.

The deployment of 1 RAR was only the beginning of a relatively large Australian presence in Vietnam. In March 1966 the First Australian Task Force (which included New Zealand units) of two battalions and support services arrived in Phuoc Tuy province to replace 1 RAR. This force was able to perform its own independent operations and controversially included conscripts. All nine battalions of the RAR eventually served in this task force before it was withdrawn in 1971. At its height there were 8,500 troops serving in it.

Away from the ground troops, RAAF jet bombers joined US patrols over the North Vietnamese coast, and the Royal Australian Navy also provided a diving team and helicopters to assist the US Army.

The arrival of the task force inevitably exposed Australian troops to heavy combat, and the RAR in particular fought intense battles such as Long Tan, Coral-Balmoral, Hat Dich and Binh Ba. The regiment held its own in these battles and won impressive tactical victories, but ultimately the tide of the war was against them. In 1968 North Vietnamese forces launched the Tet Offensive, and although it was militarily defeated the Americans began to question if a decisive victory was actually possible in Vietnam. It was an opinion that many were already vocalising in Australia.

Protests and withdrawal

Australian protests against the war mirrored their American counterparts. Opposition was initially divided between moderates and radicals, but from 1969 the protests became more unified. A campaign called "Don't Register" aimed to dissuade young men from registering for conscription, and the 'Moratorium' antiwar movement held major demonstrations. In May 1970 approximately 70,000-100,000 people peacefully occupied Melbourne during a Moratorium march, and there were similar protests throughout Australia. A large factor in these protests was the escalation of the war into Cambodia, but by 1970 Australian involvement in Vietnam was already ending.

RAR battalions began to be withdrawn from Vietnam in November 1970 and were not replaced, with the last departing a year later. Military advisors remained until December 1972. The governor-general finally proclaimed the end of Australia's participation in the war in January 1973.

Vietnam caused the most serious dissent in Australia since the conscription referendums of WWI, with many protestors, conscientious objectors and draft resisters being fined or jailed. Returning soldiers sometimes encountered hostility and many suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. Like in America, the Vietnam War was a hard experience for Australia, with a legacy that remains divisive today.

Australian soldiers on the ground in Vietnam, 1965. The relatively large Australian representation proved highly contentious

Mel Gibson and Australian actor Steve Bisley on the set of *Mad Max* (1979). The film was part of the Ozploitation category within Australian New Wave cinema

© Getty images

ARTS AND CULTURE DOWN UNDER

From the Heidelberg School art movement to Ozploitation and Neighbours, Australia has a rich legacy when it comes to local arts and culture

Words by Poppy-Jay St. Palmer

Australia has a reputation for a lot of things: rugby, creepy crawlies and barbecues, to name just a few. But the country is often overlooked when it comes to its contribution to 20th- and 21st-century arts and culture. However, its history within those realms is still a rich one, even if it's not widely known.

Shortly before the turn of the 20th century, a small group of painters created one of Australia's most important art movements. Heavily influenced by French impressionism, it offered a fresh look at Australia's landscapes. The movement quickly became known as the Heidelberg School, coined by art critic Sidney Dickinson and named after Heidelberg on the rural outskirts of Melbourne, where the first 'artist camps' - groups of artists painting en plein air, or 'in the open air' - took place. Pioneering artists included Arthur Streeton and Walter Withers, but the camps quickly grew to include the likes of Tom Roberts, Charles Conder and Frederick McCubbin, among others. Though styles and themes differed from painter to painter, all of their works were connected by an exploration of naturalism and impressionism, which captured Australian life, landscapes, the bush, and the country's famous and unique sunlight. More recently, art historians have described the Heidelberg School as 'Australian Impressionism'.

THE HEIDELBERG SCHOOL'S DEPICTION OF AUSTRALIAN LIGHT IS INSTANTLY RECOGNISABLE

As well as shaking things up in the Australian art world, the Heidelberg School played a huge part in solidifying the nationalist sentiment that was prevalent in the country at the time. During that period, the colonies weren't yet united as one nation, and so 'Australia' was still just a geographical concept rather than a political reality. A sense of national identity was only just beginning to develop for non-Indigenous people living in the country, and so the artists' creations were celebrated for being distinctly Australian in character. By the 20th century, critics were identifying the movement as the start of an Australian tradition in Western art. Many of the artists involved in the movement were influenced by European Impressionists, having trained, worked and travelled in the continent, and clear parallels can be drawn between the two styles.

Though the Heidelberg School had a huge impact on Australia's cultural sphere, it obviously wasn't the first art form to do so. Aboriginal culture can be dated back as far as 60,000 and 80,000 years ago, and with it Aboriginal art. Historically, people of the culture conveyed important cultural stories through the icons and symbols found in rock paintings in place of written language. Many of the stories taught survival and use of the land, and were passed down through the generations, with simpler or more complicated and elaborate pieces being created depending on the age of the audience.

Aboriginal art developed over thousands of years and has long been a part of Australia's history, particularly within its Indigenous communities. The first modern Indigenous art pieces, however, didn't emerge until the 1930s. Before that point, most Indigenous Australian artwork was done in a natural clay earth pigment known as ochre, which was used as body paint or on rock and bark. In the 20th century, Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders started painting with watercolours, which began a new and important art movement within the communities.

One of the pioneers of the artform was Albert Namatjira, now arguably the most famous Indigenous Australian of his generation. A member of the Western Arrernte people, he was born and raised just outside of Alice Springs in the Hermannsburg Lutheran Mission. Namatjira had been interested in art for most of his life, and learnt to seriously paint in 1934 under the guidance of Australian artist Rex Battarbee.

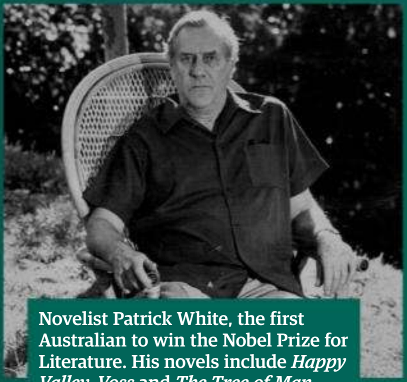
"Most Indigenous Australian artwork was done in a natural clay earth pigment known as ochre, which was used as body paint or on rock and bark"

MODERN AUSSIE LITERATURE

During its early Western history, Australia was a collection of British colonies, so its literary tradition was deeply linked to English literature. In 1788, however, the tradition began to morph into something new. Australian authors started exploring new themes that represented their own country and national identity, like democracy, migration, Aboriginality, urban living, and Australia's unique geography and landscape.

Those themes endured, and are still explored in many contemporary works by authors, poets and playwrights working today. One of the country's 20th-century literary heroes was novelist Patrick White, who was inspired by his surroundings and based his first novel, *Happy Valley* (1939), around a jackaroo working on the land in the Snowy Mountains in New South Wales. He became the first Australian to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1973, "for an epic and psychological narrative art which introduced a new continent into literature".

Though many of Australia's writers – including numerous Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders – are well known only in Australia, a number of expatriates have found fame overseas. Memoirist, poet and novelist Martin Boyd, for example, was born in Australia but lived in Europe for much of his life and continued to explore strong Australian themes in his writing even when residing abroad. Though he became very popular in the United States and Great Britain, he was largely ignored by his native Australian audience.

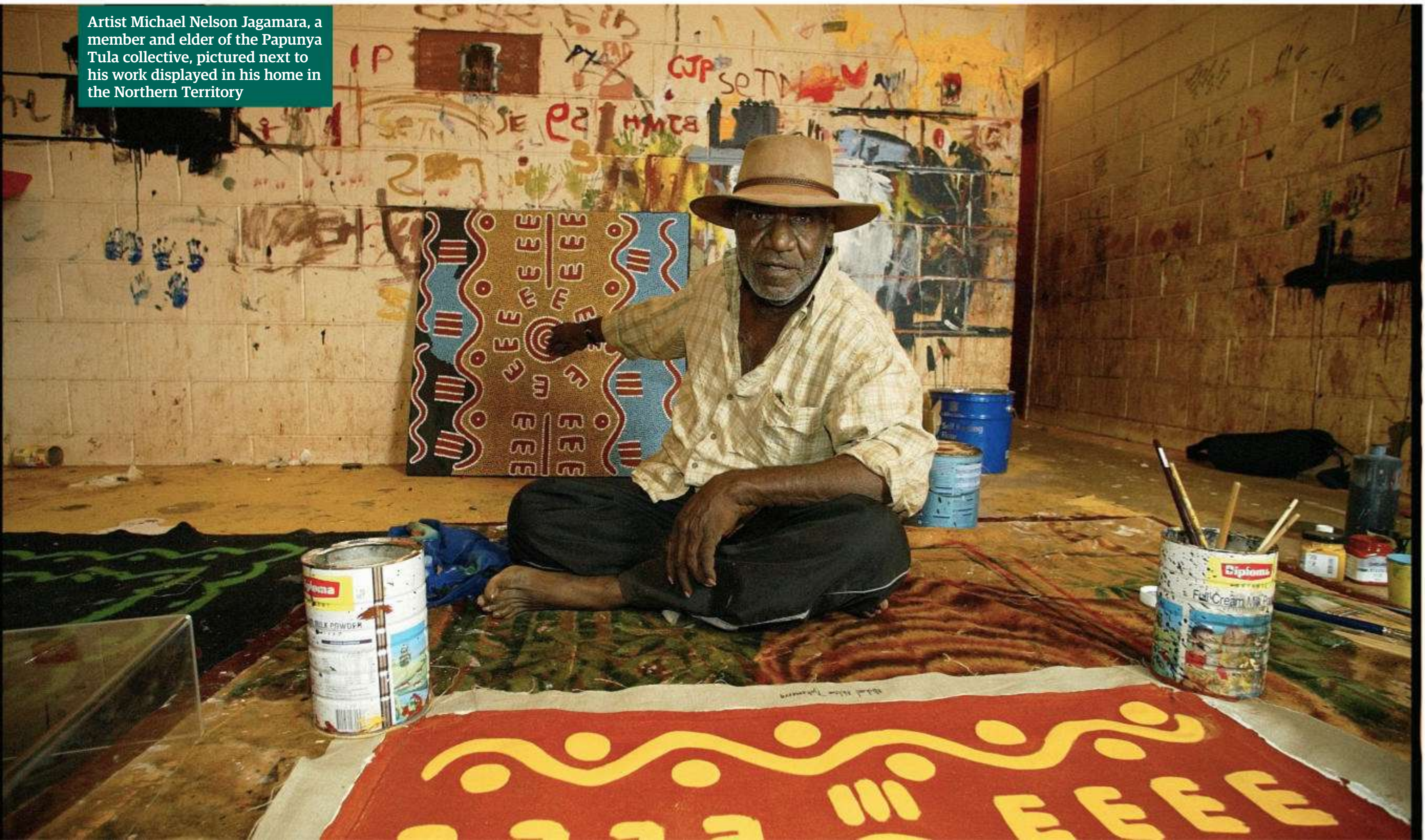


Novelist Patrick White, the first Australian to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. His novels include *Happy Valley*, *Voss* and *The Tree of Man*

Through his lessons, Namatjira studied Western art in more detail, which ended up heavily influencing his own style. Picking up the watercolours, he painted landscapes from the outback in far more detail than the abstract designs of traditional Aboriginal artwork. Though Namatjira's work seemed to mirror conventional European landscapes often presented in French Impressionism, it also gave viewers a unique look at Australia through his eyes. His style inspired a new movement, the Hermannsburg School of painting, and turned him into a household name. Prints of his work are still hung on the walls of homes all over Australia.

In 1971, contemporary Indigenous Australian art experienced a resurgence with Papunya Tula, an Aboriginal owned and operated artist cooperative based in the Western Desert of Australia. The movement started with school teacher Geoffrey Bardon, who encouraged local artists to contribute to a mural that was to feature on a blank school wall. The mural was painted using the traditional style of body and sand ceremonial art, and inspired other members of the area's Indigenous community to create smaller paintings of their Jukurrpa, or ancestral stories, on any available surface, including car bonnets, tin cans and match boxes. The explosion of artistic creativity is often cited as being the origin of contemporary Indigenous Australian art. The first generation of male artists involved with the collective included Anatjari Tjakamarra, Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri and Kaapa Tjampitjinpa. A wave of female artists, including Pansy Napangardi, Doreen Reid Nakamarra and Eileen Napaltjarri, finally joined them towards the late 1980s.

The 1970s turned out to be a pretty important decade for Australian arts and culture. When it comes to countries famous for cinema, Australia isn't usually one that comes to mind. India, Nigeria, China, Japan and the United States all sit at the forefront in terms of all-



Artist Michael Nelson Jagamara, a member and elder of the Papunya Tula collective, pictured next to his work displayed in his home in the Northern Territory time quantity. European countries like France, the United Kingdom and Italy are known for their independent and arthouse offerings. But Australia's quiet contribution to cinema has been integral since the early days. In fact, the world's first feature-length film, *The Story of the Kelly Gang* (1906), was produced in Melbourne on a miniscule budget of £450. Many of cinema's most popular actors, like Hugh Jackman, Chris Hemsworth, Cate Blanchett, and even Golden Era Robin Hood himself Errol Flynn, hail from Down Under.

The country's most notable contribution, however, has to be Australian New Wave. The era – also known as the Australian Film Revival, Australian Film Renaissance or New Australian Cinema – began in the early 1970s and kick-started a resurgence in worldwide popularity of Australian films, particularly in the United States. Towards the end of the Second World War, Australian cinema experienced a rapid decline, and came to a virtual stop by the 1960s. In an attempt to save the country's film industry from oblivion, the Gorton (1968-71) and Whitlam (1972-75) governments intervened and helped with the funding of productions and the training of a new generation of filmmakers, including now-established directors Peter Weir, George Miller and Gillian Armstrong.

The result was a huge boom in the Australian film industry, with nearly 400 films being produced between 1970 and 1985. New Wave also brought with it a new style; the output was fresh and creative, with a propensity for sudden violence and languorous sexuality. Notable films from the period include *Walkabout* (1971), *Picnic at Hanging Rock* (1975), *Mad Max* (1979) and *Crocodile Dundee* (1986).

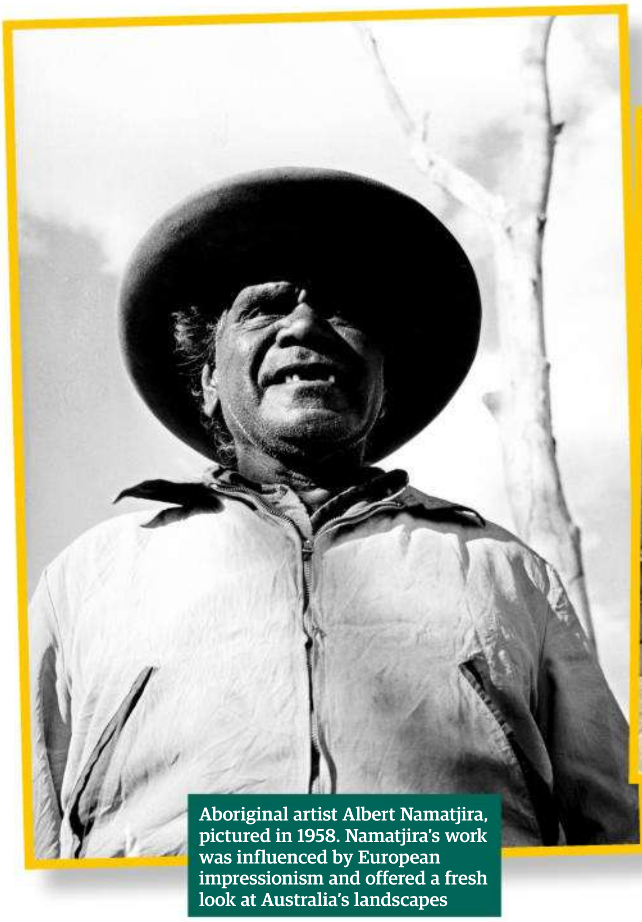
The New Wave era also marked the arrival of an emerging genre now known as Ozploitation. Following the introduction of the R rating in 1971, the reformed Australian film industry decided it would have a go at capitalising on low-budget horror, comedy, sexploitation and action films, which were popular in other countries at the time. Taking the lead from the revolutionary spirit of the 1970s, the pictures produced were crude, violent, outrageous and often unpleasant, with martial arts films, science fiction, biker films and schlock horror becoming popular genres for Ozploitation pictures.

However, they also exposed audiences to a wilder side of Australian culture and its sprawling desert landscapes, and served as an important contribution to the history of Australian cinema. The Ozploitation approach to filmmaking endured from the early 1970s to the late 1980s. But with a back catalogue riddled with cult films and hidden gems, the genre is still gaining fans today.

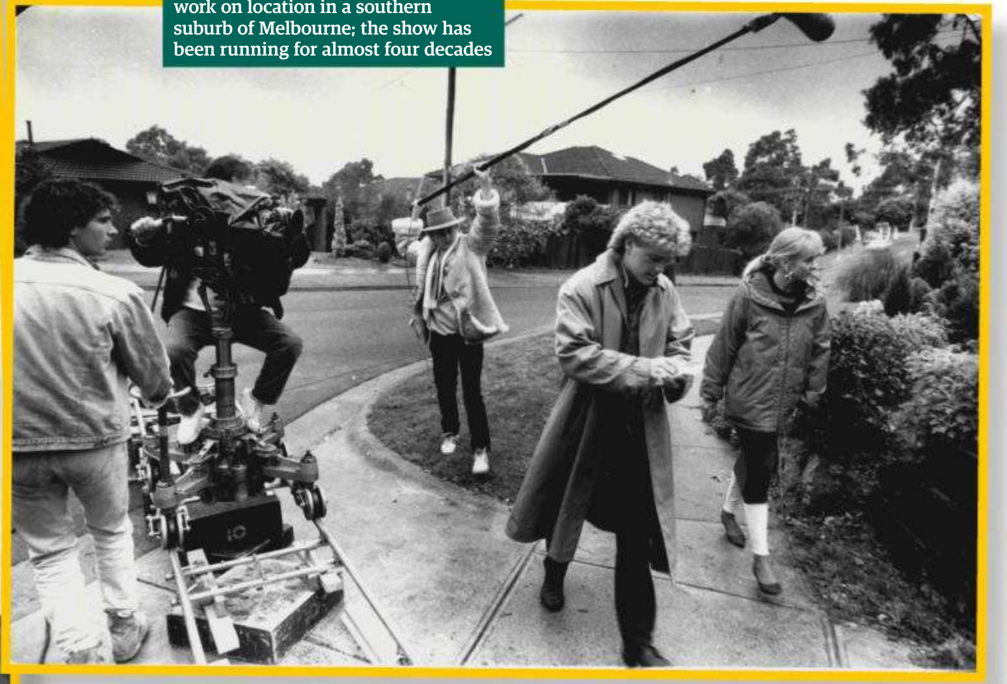
In some ways, the history of Australian television mirrors that of its cinema. Before the 1970s, TV from Down Under was quite self-contained – home-grown shows quickly gathered strong Australian followings, but they didn't travel much further than that. Australian family shows, game shows, pop shows, sports shows and sitcoms grew in popularity among the local audience, but it wasn't until Melbourne transformed into a centre for Australian soap operas that things started to change.

Among hits like *Bellbird* (set in a small country town), *Number 96* (set in a four-storey block of flats) and *Prisoner: Cell Block H* (set in a women's prison) came *Neighbours*, now one of the most popular soap operas of all time. Set in a fictional suburb of Melbourne, the series followed the lives and loves of the residents of Ramsay Street, and helped launch the careers of a plethora of Aussie superstars, including Kylie Minogue, Margot Robbie, Guy Pierce, Russell Crowe, and Chris and Liam Hemsworth. 36 years and almost 9,000 episodes later, the show is still going strong.

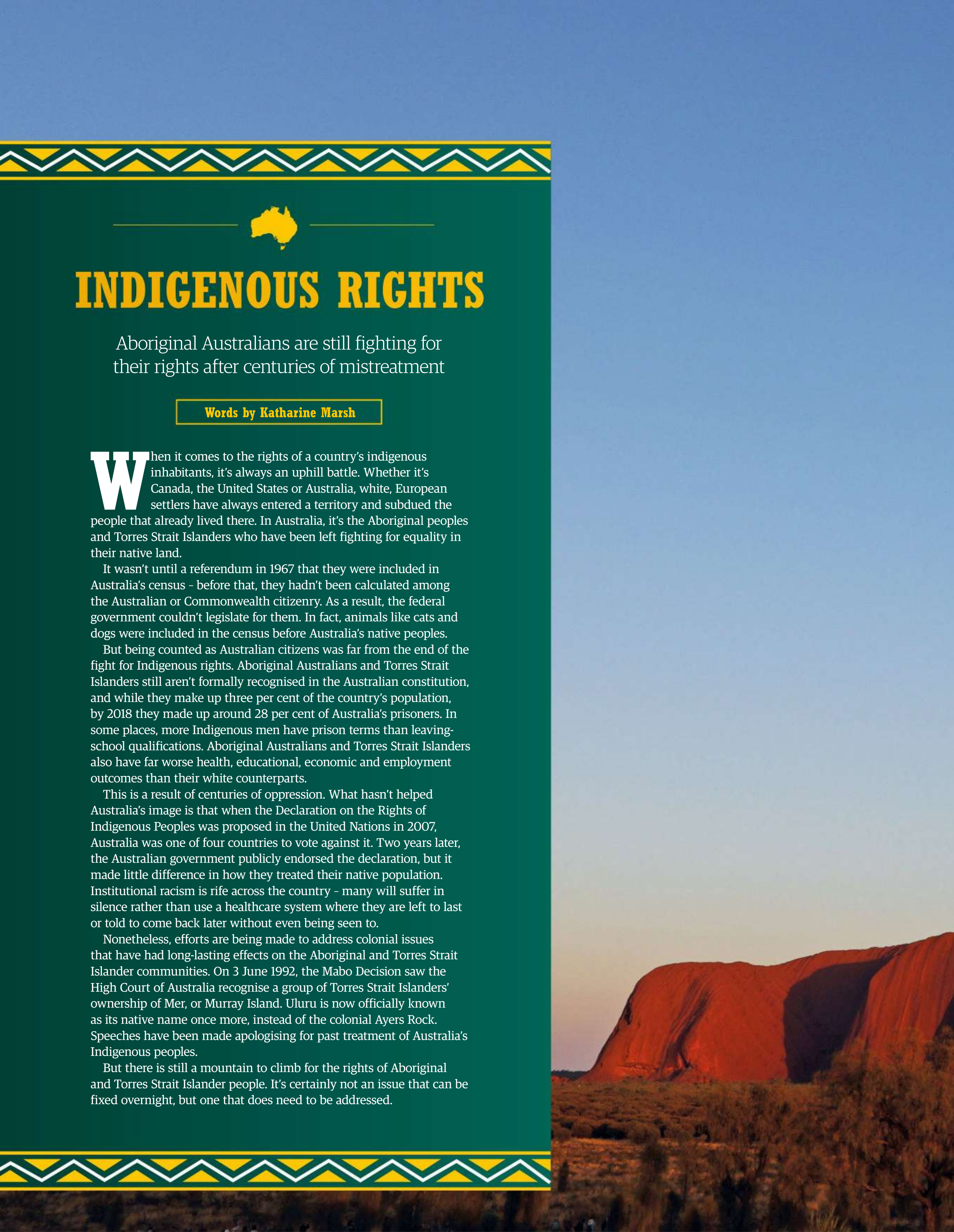
> "The world's first feature-length film, The Story of the Kelly Gang (1906), was produced in Melbourne on a miniscule budget of £450"



Aboriginal artist Albert Namatjira, pictured in 1958. Namatjira's work was influenced by European impressionism and offered a fresh look at Australia's landscapes



The cast and crew of *Neighbours* work on location in a southern suburb of Melbourne; the show has been running for almost four decades



INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

Aboriginal Australians are still fighting for their rights after centuries of mistreatment

Words by Katharine Marsh

When it comes to the rights of a country's indigenous inhabitants, it's always an uphill battle. Whether it's Canada, the United States or Australia, white, European settlers have always entered a territory and subdued the people that already lived there. In Australia, it's the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders who have been left fighting for equality in their native land.

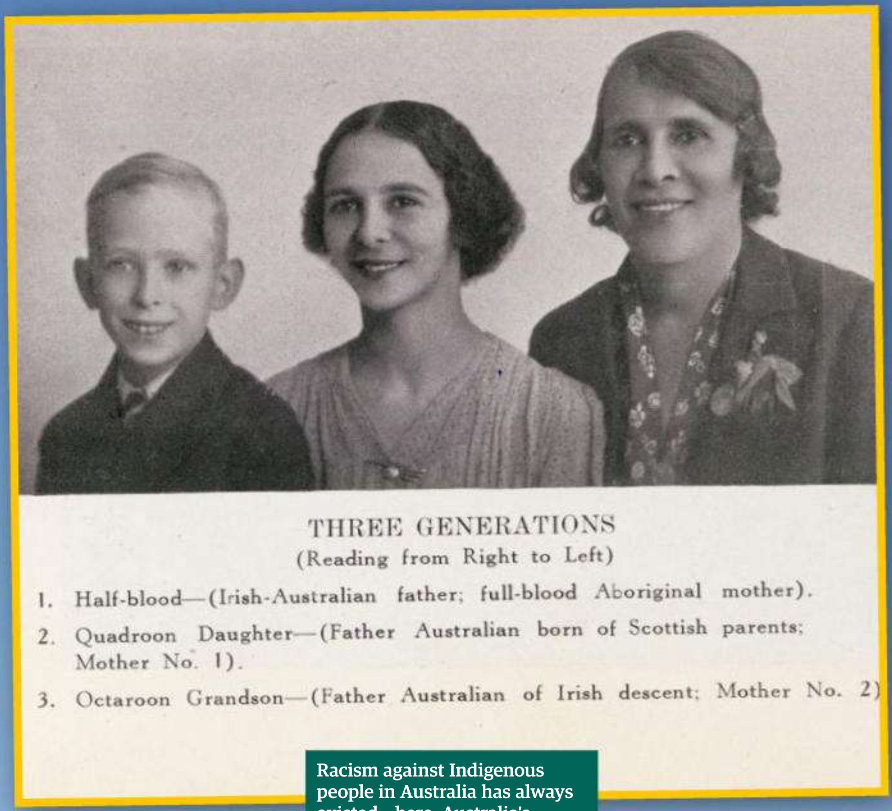
It wasn't until a referendum in 1967 that they were included in Australia's census - before that, they hadn't been calculated among the Australian or Commonwealth citizenry. As a result, the federal government couldn't legislate for them. In fact, animals like cats and dogs were included in the census before Australia's native peoples.

But being counted as Australian citizens was far from the end of the fight for Indigenous rights. Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders still aren't formally recognised in the Australian constitution, and while they make up three per cent of the country's population, by 2018 they made up around 28 per cent of Australia's prisoners. In some places, more Indigenous men have prison terms than leaving-school qualifications. Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders also have far worse health, educational, economic and employment outcomes than their white counterparts.

This is a result of centuries of oppression. What hasn't helped Australia's image is that when the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was proposed in the United Nations in 2007, Australia was one of four countries to vote against it. Two years later, the Australian government publicly endorsed the declaration, but it made little difference in how they treated their native population. Institutional racism is rife across the country - many will suffer in silence rather than use a healthcare system where they are left to last or told to come back later without even being seen to.

Nonetheless, efforts are being made to address colonial issues that have had long-lasting effects on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. On 3 June 1992, the Mabo Decision saw the High Court of Australia recognise a group of Torres Strait Islanders' ownership of Mer, or Murray Island. Uluru is now officially known as its native name once more, instead of the colonial Ayers Rock. Speeches have been made apologising for past treatment of Australia's Indigenous peoples.

But there is still a mountain to climb for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It's certainly not an issue that can be fixed overnight, but one that does need to be addressed.

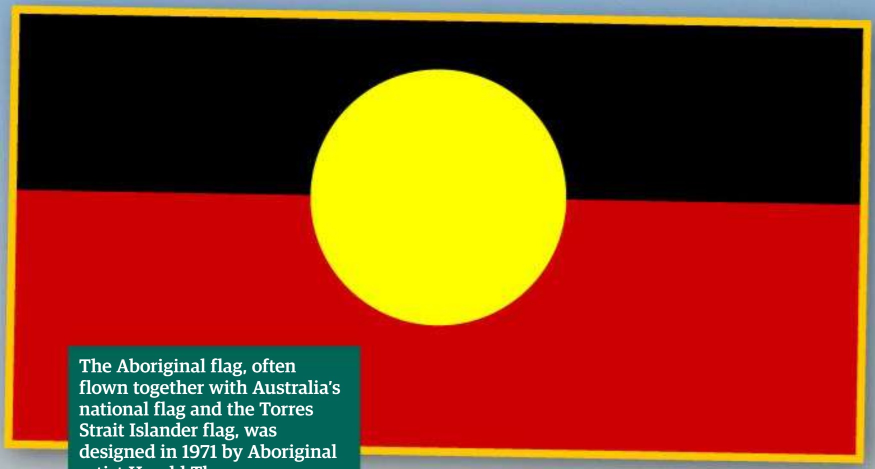


THREE GENERATIONS

(Reading from Right to Left)

1. Half-blood—(Irish-Australian father; full-blood Aboriginal mother).
2. Quadroon Daughter—(Father Australian born of Scottish parents; Mother No. 1).
3. Octaroon Grandson—(Father Australian of Irish descent; Mother No. 2)

Racism against Indigenous people in Australia has always existed - here, Australia's 'assimilation policy' from 1947 is written out for all to see



The Aboriginal flag, often flown together with Australia's national flag and the Torres Strait Islander flag, was designed in 1971 by Aboriginal artist Harold Thomas

Uluru, a sacred site of the Pitjantjatjara, the Aboriginal people of the area

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HALL OF FAME
INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Meet the people who overcame prejudice to achieve great things

Archie Roach

Roach has released four albums and toured the world

1956-present

Archie Roach is an award-winning musician and singer, songwriter and guitarist. His 1990 album *Charcoal Lane* won him two ARIA awards (Australian Record Industry Association) and was one of *Rolling Stone* magazine's Top 50 albums in 1992. His most famous song, *Took The Children Away*, draws on his own experience of the Stolen Generation, when Aboriginal Australian children were forcibly taken from their families. The song received a Human Rights Achievement Award, which was the first in its history to be awarded to a songwriter.

Noonuccal was a key figure in the struggle to gain full citizenship for Aboriginal peoples

Oodgeroo Noonuccal

1920-93

Leaving school at 13, Noonuccal first worked as a domestic servant in Brisbane. In 1941, she enlisted in the Australian Women's Army Service as a switchboard operator before being invalided out in 1943. Noonuccal began writing poetry in the 1950s. Her first collection, *We Are Going*, made her one of Australia's bestselling poets, and she was the first Aboriginal Australian person to become a published poet. Carrying strong political undertones, her poetry helped in the recognition of Aboriginal rights.

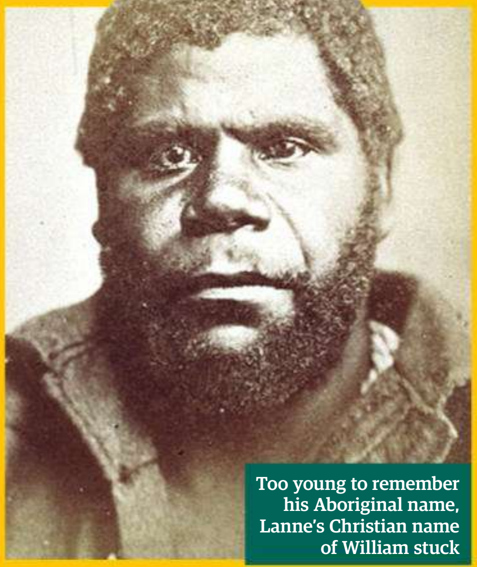
Albert Namatjira

1902-59

Albert Namatjira was a successful artist and a celebrity in his lifetime. He became fascinated by Western art after seeing an exhibition by European artists including Rex Battarbee. Offering to be Battarbee's cameleer in return for painting lessons, Namatjira became a renowned watercolour artist with just two months of tuition. Holding exhibitions across Australia, his landscapes showcased the beauty of his country. Due to his success, he was the first Aboriginal person granted Australian citizenship.

ONE OF NAMATJIRA'S PAINTINGS WAS SENT TO LONDON AND GIFTED TO PRINCESS ELIZABETH

Namatjira produced about 2,000 paintings in his lifetime and counted Elizabeth II as an admirer of his work


Too young to remember his Aboriginal name, Lanne's Christian name of William stuck

William Lanne

1835-69

Also known as King Billy, William Lanne was referred to as the last 'full-blooded' Aboriginal Tasmanian man and is known for the terrible mistreatment of his body that followed his death. With both the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal Society of Tasmania wanting to examine his remains, the ensuing arguments resulted in his posthumous decapitation, his skull being stolen and his hands and feet being removed to prevent collection of samples. This horrific treatment led to legislation being passed that meant medical experiments must gain prior permission.

Members of David Unaipon's family sought compensation amid claims that the bank used his image without permission

David Unaipon

1872-1967

Featured on the Australian $50 note, Unaipon was a spokesperson, inventor and writer who made significant contributions to science and literature. Said to be the Australian Leonardo da Vinci, his most well known invention was a modified hand-piece to be used in sheep shearing, which revolutionised the wool industry. Unaipon submitted patents for 19 inventions during his lifetime, including a centrifugal motor and a helicopter design that was modelled on a boomerang.

Goolagong after winning the 1971 Dutch Open

Evonne Goolagong Cawley

1951-present

Using an apple crate board as a makeshift racket, Goolagong's dream was always Wimbledon. Encouraged by neighbours, Goolagong moved to Sydney to receive coaching at age 14. Reaching Wimbledon by 18, she was put on Centre Court, which was unheard of for an unknown player at the time. In total, Goolagong won 92 pro tournaments and ranks 12th in a list of all-time female singles grand slam winners, level with Venus Williams. She now runs the Evonne Goolagong Foundation.

Fanny Cochrane Smith

1834-1905

In 1876, Cochrane Smith was recognised as the last 'full-blooded' Tasmanian Aboriginal woman and received 120 hectares of land and a stipend of £50 from the government. She was proud of her heritage as the last fluent speaker of her language and people would watch her perform traditional songs, dances and stories. In 1899 and 1903, she made recordings on wax cylinders. These are the only recorded examples of Tasmanian Indigenous language and traditional songs.

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Cathy Freeman

1973-present

In 1990, aged 16, Freeman became the first Aboriginal Australian to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal as part of the 4x100 metres relay team. Four years later, Freeman took another gold, and during her lap of honour, flew both the Aboriginal and Australian flag, for which she was reprimanded. In protest of Australia's mistreatment of its Indigenous peoples, Freeman was asked by campaign groups to boycott the 2000 Olympics, but she refused. The only athletics competitor for Australia, Freeman took home the 400 metres gold medal, Australia's 100th overall, and proudly flew both her flags once more to a roaring crowd. Her success brought attention to the prejudices faced by Aboriginal Australians every day.

Bonner came from a simple background and received almost no formal education

Neville Bonner

1922-99

Born on an Aboriginal reserve, Bonner moved to Queensland after the death of his mother. In 1960, he became associated with the One People Australia League, serving as president for several years. After being invited to join the Liberal Party, Bonner was elected in 1971 and became the first Aboriginal Australian to sit in parliament. He often crossed the floor to vote with his conscience and became a respected commentator on Aboriginal Australian issues.

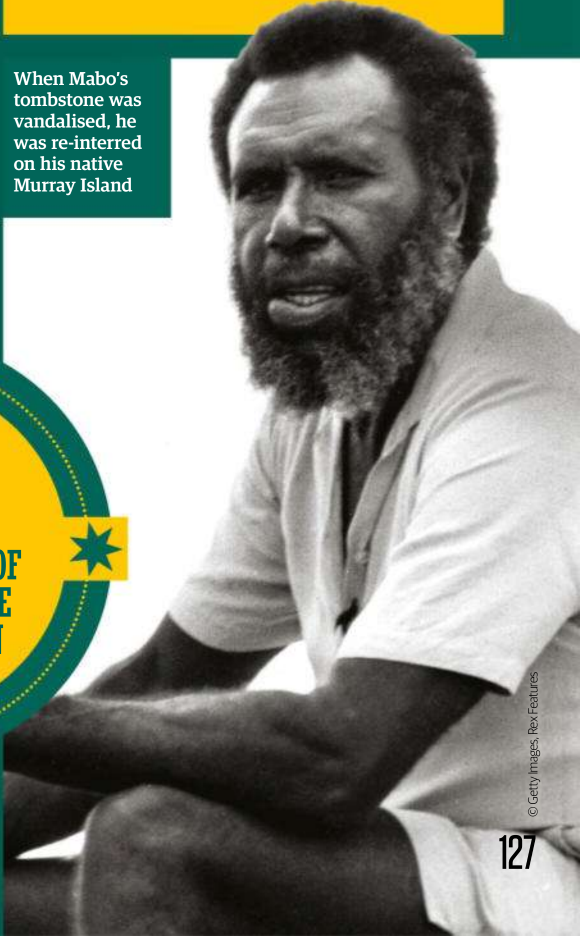
Eddie Koiki Mabo

1936-92

Terra Nullius – "land belonging to no one" – was a principle enacted in Australia prior to European settlement, denying Aboriginal Australian people possession of the land they had occupied. In 1982, five Meriam people, led by Eddie Mabo, began a legal claim for their traditional lands in the Torres Strait. Ten years later, a ruling was given in favour of native title over lands, abolishing terra nullius and establishing legal precedent for native ownership throughout Australia. Mabo died before the decision was made. He was buried in a traditional ceremony for Meriam kings.

ON 3 JUNE EVERY YEAR, THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF EDDIE MABO ARE CELEBRATED ON MABO DAY

When Mabo's tombstone was vandalised, he was re-interred on his native Murray Island



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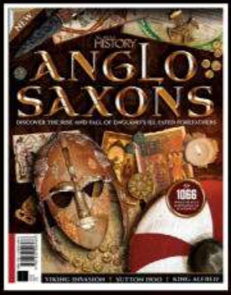
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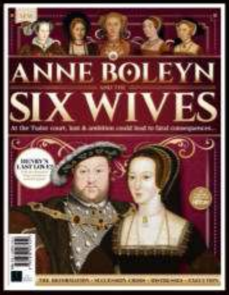
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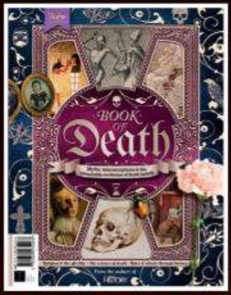
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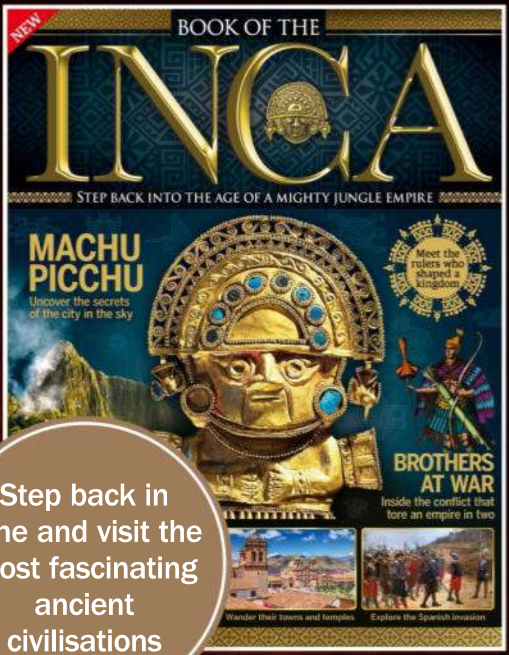
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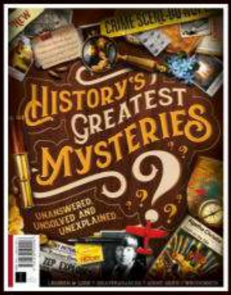
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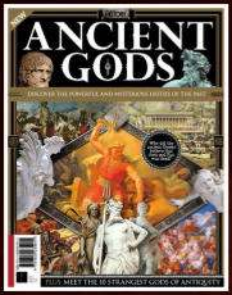
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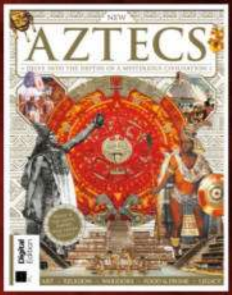

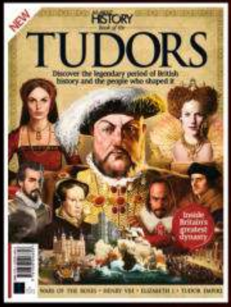

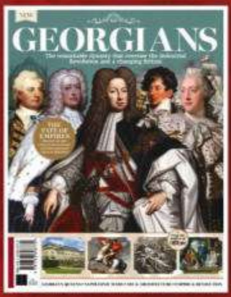
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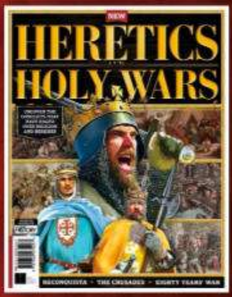
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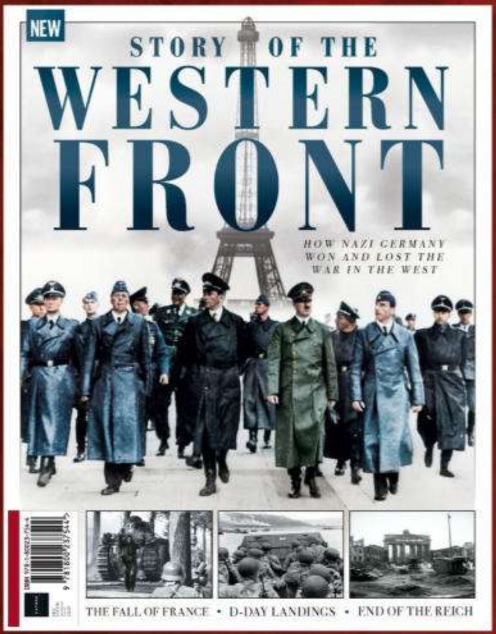

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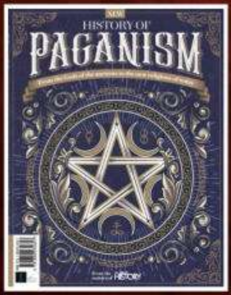
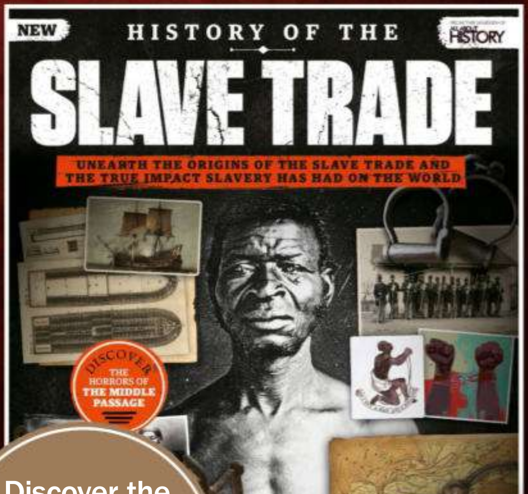

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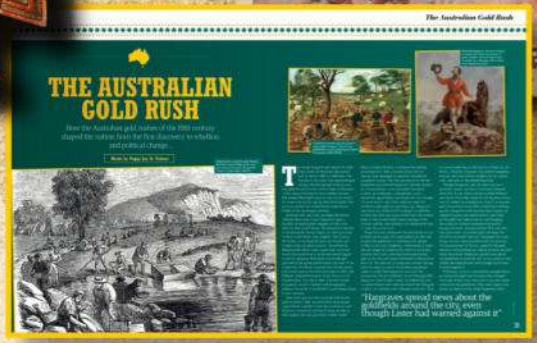

THE AUSTRALIAN GOLD RUSH

"Hargraves spread news about the goldfields around the city, even though Lister had warned against it"

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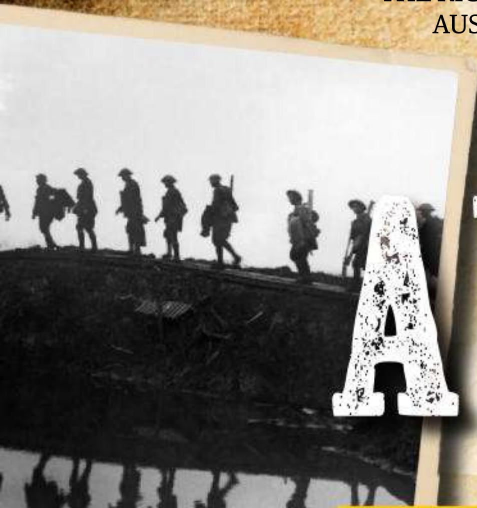
WHY THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD DOWN UNDER CHANGED EVERYTHING



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THE HISTORY OF THE FLYING DOCTOR

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